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## STAR WARS WARNING BY GORBACHEV

### I like him, says Thatcher

By DAVID ADAMSON Diplomatic Correspondent

MR MIKHAIL GORBACHEV said yesterday that it would be "unreal" to hope to stop the nuclear arms race unless there is a ban on space weaponry.

His remarks, made at a speech during a chilly lunch in the Great Hall of Hampton Court, followed two hours and 40 minutes of talks with Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary.

As on the previous day at Chequers, the focus was on the approaching Geneva arms talks and Soviet concern with what Mr Gorbachev, regarded as the second most senior man in the Kremlin, calls "the prevention of the militarisation of space."

Yesterday's talks, in fact, continued more or less from where they left off on Sunday with Mrs Thatcher, who flew out yesterday on a six-day world tour, including visits to Peking and Washington.

The talks were described by British sources as "friendly and substantive, businesslike" as well as "very relaxed."

Mr Gorbachev's warning about space weaponry was part of the manoeuvring over the format and agenda of the arms control talks, which is being conducted by the Russians as well as by the Americans.

The Reagan Administration is apparently committed to a new era of defensive weapons that could destroy incoming nuclear missiles from space.

The Soviet Union, still far behind in this field, is threatening to block progress on limiting long-range and medium-range missiles unless "Star Wars" space weaponry is firmly on the agenda with a view to banning it.

### Some British sympathy

Mrs Thatcher seemed at least partly sympathetic to that view in a BBC interview in which she said: "One does not want to go to a higher and higher level of armaments. But she thought the most important thing at the moment was to concentrate on the form the arms control talks would take."

She said of her Chequers guest: "I like Mr Gorbachev. We can do business together."

As a result of his visit she was "cautiously optimistic" that East-West relations could be improved.

"We have two great interests in common: that we should do everything we can to see war never starts again, so we go into disarmament talks determined to make them succeed."

Mrs Thatcher will see President Reagan in Washington on Sunday.

## 6-day world tour

By DAVID ADAMSON Diplomatic Correspondent

Mrs THATCHER left for a six-day world tour which crowns a year of considerable achievements in the field of foreign affairs after the domestic difficulties caused by the miners' strike and continued high unemployment.

The first is that, with the help of President Mitterrand, she has managed to dispose of budget reform as a major issue besetting Britain's relations with other E.C. countries.

The second will be confirmed in Peking tomorrow when she signs the treaty under which Hong Kong will remain a Chinese territory in 1997.

The agreement underwrites British as the territory's security in the middle of the first century and of intense pressure to relations between the West and the world's largest communist power.

Finally, she has created for herself a role as the only Western leader who has been involved in the talks about talks of the arms control negotiations which are due to begin their extraordinary session in Geneva next month.

After spending nearly three

## Pensions staff end strike

By DAVID FLETCHER  
Health Services  
Correspondent

COMPUTER staff at the Department of Health and Social Security who have been on strike for seven months, voted yesterday to return to work in the New Year.

Their action has disrupted payment of pensions and child benefit to several million people, and has cost the department over £100 million in additional administration.

The dispute ended in bitterness as the 400 strikers at DHSS offices in Newcastle upon Tyne and Washington, Tyne and Wear, attacked their own union, the Civil and Public Service Association, for failing to support them and unconvincingly passed a vote of no confidence in Mr Alistair Graham, the union's general secretary.

The strike started in mid-May in protest at DHSS plans for new shift-working patterns designed to save £700,000 a year.

Staff complained that the new arrangements would lose them pay of up to £14 a week, but the DHSS promised to safeguard all wages for two years.

### Other unions accept

Two smaller unions accepted this arrangement, but the C.P.S.A. members voted to stay out.

When the rest of the C.P.S.A. membership refused to join the strike, the union's executive advised the strikers to return to work on the terms accepted by the two smaller unions.

A spokesman for the DHSS said that because of the strike it would take weeks, or even months, before all benefit payments would return to normal.

In the meantime, claimants should continue with present methods of receiving payments and would be notified as soon as they could return to normal methods.

## FORD PEACE FORMULA REJECTED

By Our Industrial Staff

Trade union leaders of 270 women sewing machinists, who strike in a grading dispute has stopped all Ford car production, yesterday rejected the company's latest peace formula. They will report to the strikers themselves today.

The strike has already cost 10,000 workers lost off at Ford plants between £500 and £600 each, and they now look likely to lose this week's pay as well as the strike continues into the New Year. But they will be paid during the company's Christmas shutdown.

The dispute has caused the loss of more than 200 million worth of cars at showroom openings. The machinists are claiming an extra £6-67 a week to £144.

## GETTY £120,000 FOR WORKING MINERS

Mr Paul Getty II has given £120,000 to the National Working Miners' Committee, to raise financial hardship among working pit men who have been intimidated and have had property damaged.

His donation follows an earlier gift of £100,000 to the striking miners families Christmas Appeal Fund. Mr Getty, who lives in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, insisted that this should not be used to finance picketing.

## BEST PAID MAN'S £250,000 RISE

By Our City Staff

Richard Giordano, 50, Britain's highest paid executive, received a £250,000 (£4,800 per week) pay rise last year.

The American-born chief executive of BOC group, the industrial gases giant, collected £771,800 compared with £521,500 in 1983. His pay is related to BOC's profitability.

## SWEDEN WIN DAVIS CUP

Sweden beat America 3-0 in the Davis Cup final in Gothenburg last night. Earlier Jimmy Connors was fined £1,600 for swearing on court on Sunday.

Report—P22

## INDEX TO OTHER PAGES

	PAGE		PAGE
Art	9	Leader Page	12
Arts Notices	9	Obituaries	10
Births, Marriages and Deaths	2 and 24	Parliamentary Report	8
Chess	18	Personal	10
City News	15, 16 and 17	Radio Review	10
City Prices	14	Sport	19, 21, 22 and 23
Court and Social	14	TV and Radio	9
Entertainments Guide	23	Way of the World	19
		Women's Page	11



Child murderer Colin Evans pictured with a four-year-old girl.

## Suspect shot dead after bomb attack

By KENNETH CLARKE in Belfast

A SUSPECTED terrorist was shot dead and another suspect was captured yesterday after an incident in which a Land-Rover carrying seven members of the Ulster Defence Regiment was destroyed by a bombing on a country road in Armagh.

Two of the seven UDR men in the Land-Rover were "very seriously" injured in the attack. But minutes later two armed suspects were seen running away and a police patrol opened fire.

The identity of the dead suspect was not immediately revealed, but it is understood that the captured man is a brother of Seamus Grew, a leading member of the Irish National Liberation Army, who was shot dead by RUC two years ago.

## HITCH IN RESCUE OF BANK

By ANNE SEGALL  
Banking Correspondent

THE major banks are delaying contributions to the rescue of Johnson Matthey Bankers, the failed section of the Johnson Matthey precious metals group, taken over by the Bank of England on Oct. 1.

There have been asked to provide £30 million towards a £150 million indemnity scheme, but are refusing because the Inland Revenue will not give them tax relief on their contributions.

If the banks pull out, the Bank of England will have to shoulder the burden alone, thus involving the taxpayer in massive losses.

The bank has already called for £75 million of indemnities to be met by the end of the year.

To the Commons yesterday, the Chancellor, Mr Lawson, announced a top-level review of the Bank of England's supervisory arrangements and of the Bank's Act itself in response to the Johnson Matthey affair.

Parliament—P3  
City report—P15  
Editorial Comment—P12

## LATE NEWS

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## MEAN ARTS GRANT

The Government yesterday announced what Lord Gower, Arts Minister, described as "a rather mean" overall increase of 5.8 per cent for the arts, museums and libraries next year. There were immediate protests from the Arts Council, National Gallery, British Museum, National Theatre and British Film Institute.

Details—P2

## MINERS KILLED

Seven black miners dead, eight missing, after accidents at two South African gold mines.—Renter.

## 30 years for 'evil killer' of Marie Payne

By ALAN COPPS

COLIN EVANS, the "evil, unfeeling" killer of four-year-old Marie Payne, was jailed for at least 30 years yesterday amid demands for an inquiry into how Berkshire's social services committee allowed him to become a baby-sitter despite a string of previous convictions for sexual assaults on children.

Sir Gerard Vaughan, former Tory Health Minister, calling for an inquiry, said: "Local agencies have got to take much more care how they go about selecting people for this kind of work."

Evans, a 45-year-old lorry driver from Reading, pleaded guilty at the Old Bailey to the murder of Marie Payne.

Justice Kenneth Jones, passing a life sentence, told Evans: "I regard you as an evil, dangerous and unfeeling man and as long as you are at large there is always a danger you will murder again in pursuit of your sordid perversions."

"I recommend a sentence which is either contemptuous with your natural life, or for so long as your sexual impulses have passed away with old age."

Evans led police to Marie's shallow grave in Epping Forest in May this year, 14 months after he had abducted her from outside her Dagenham home.

In the forest, Evans strangled Marie and indecently assaulted her.

When she started to cry he smashed her head with a heavy

Trial report—P3

branch before leaving the body in a shallow grave.

Two days later Evans returned to the murder scene, sexually mutilated Marie's body and took obscene photographs. Then he buried the body and put her clothes in a tree trunk.

Police had no clues to Marie's disappearance until nearly seven months later when her bloodstained clothing was discovered. They did not find the body, although it was only 250 yards away.

But one Sunday in May this year — on one of Evans' "bad days" when his sexual urge was rampant — he made three attempts to abduct young children in Essex.

His car registration number was noted by one of the children's fathers and three days later police arrested Evans at the builders' merchants in Reading where he worked.

That evening they searched his flat in Russell Street, Reading, and found a stack of indecent photographs of young girls, including Marie.

He confessed to the murder, telling police: "You will never know what has been going through my mind. I have wanted to see Marie again."

Continued on Back P. Col 6

## GAS BILLS UP IN NEW YEAR

By ROLAND GRIBBEN  
Business Correspondent

BRITISH GAS will announce tomorrow a five per cent rise in tariffs from February and changes in rebates on standing orders for small users to try to help the elderly rather than owners of holiday homes.

The increase in bills will work out at around 4.5 per cent, after taking into account the continued freeze on standing charges for the vast majority of the industry's domestic customers.

The rises are needed to meet Government financial targets aimed at getting a higher contribution from the State corporation and cover higher costs being paid for gas supplies.

British Gas is being asked to provide around £1.4 billion for the Treasury in the shape of taxes and loans to help reduce the cost of financing the loss-making state industries.

Consumers qualify for a rebate if the quarterly standing charge exceeds the cost of gas they use. The reduction was introduced to help the elderly and low paid, but has benefited people with second homes.

British Gas estimated that the rebate would cost about £20 million a year but the latest estimates show the figure is running closer to £40 million.

## ANTI-SANTA JAILING

By Our New York Staff

A man who toured a Vermont shopping centre saying that Santa Claus does not exist was still in jail after five days yesterday because he refused to promise to keep quiet. Brian Pearl, of Essex, Vermont, was told he could go free if he behaved but he refused on "religious grounds."

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# Forest pervert told police 'I've wanted to kill myself every day when I've woken up'

## HANG ME, SAID MARIE PAYNE'S MURDERER

By IAN HENRY Old Bailey Correspondent

COLIN EVANS, the 45-year-old pervert who abducted and killed four-year-old Marie Payne carried out a carbon copy, though, not fatal attack, on children 18 years ago, said Mr Allan Green, prosecuting, at the Old Bailey yesterday.

Unlike the events of 1966, when he returned the children to their homes after assaulting them in Hainault forest, Evans this time killed little Marie as she screamed and tried to run away.

Evans, after sexually abusing Marie, killed her with a blow to the head with a tree branch, and then buried the body under a blanket of leaves.

He returned to the spot two days later, exhumed the body, mutilated it with a piece of wood, photographed it and buried it in a shallow grave.

Wearing a dark grey suit and white open necked shirt, Evans, of Russell Street, Reading, showed no sign of emotion as he was sentenced to serve not less than 30 years.

Mr Justice Kenneth Jones told him: "I regard you as an evil, dangerous and unfeeling man, and as long as you are in prison there is always the danger you will murder again in pursuit of your sordid perversions."

Mr Richard Du Cann, Q.C., defending, had appealed that the "door to his natural life should not appear to be permanently slammed" by the imposition of a recommendation for too long a sentence.

But as Evans was led to the cells to begin a lifetime's sentence of segregation from other prisoners, Marie's grandmother



Marie Payne: abducted and brutally murdered.

Mrs Alice Sullivan shouted from the back of the court. "Dirty beast, it was a wicked thing to do."

Evans pleaded guilty to the murder of Marie in March, 1983, and also to three charges of child stealing involving two incidents on the same day in May of this year.

It was his desperate attempts in May to abduct other children that led to his capture and the discovery of Marie's body in a shallow grave in Epping Forest.

An Ilford father whose children were dragged off by Evans managed to rescue them, and took down the registration number of Evans's car.

The number, with two wrong digits were flashed to Edinburgh, where detectives are still hunting the killer of five-year-old Caroline Hogg, and an alert officer, Pc Baxter McPherson, promptly rearranged the numbers and led police to Evans.

Mr Green, prosecuting, said the police searched Evans's flat in Russell Street, Reading. They found children's books and bidden in the back of a radio gram under the turntable, were two wigs.

### 'I have not had proper treatment'

Police also found a carrier bag containing eight sets of photographs. Also discovered was a piece of sharpened wood. "The photographs were indecent photographs of young girls," said Mr Green. The photographs included some of Marie Payne.

When interviewed at Reading police station, Evans told police that, having killed Marie on Friday, he buried her, went away and returned on the Sunday to the forest, retrieved her body and took obscene photographs.

Chief Supt. David Little, asked Evans to take police to where she was buried. Evans replied: "I really do not know what to do."

The officer pointed out that both of them had families and Evans must leave what Marie's family was going through.

Evans replied: "Mr Little, you will now know what has been going through my mind. I have not thought about anything else. I have wanted to kill myself every day when I have woken up. Could you take me outside and hang me?"

Told that was not possible Evans went on: "It was not all my fault. I have not had proper treatment to stop me. I have days when I cannot stop myself doing these things. It frightens me."

He then gave an account of the killing, said Mr Green. He said he had travelled to visit someone who was out. He then drove to Dagenham and bought a pie and chips.

While he was eating them in his car, he saw the little girl coming along the road with a dog.

He got out, made a fuss of the dog and started talking to

the girl. He invited her to go for a ride. She got in willingly and he drove to Epping Forest with the girl in the back seat "chatting away quite happily."

He walked into the forest for about a quarter of a mile with the girl. They walked to a fallen tree trunk where he started to touch her.

"She objected a little but then made no more fuss," Evans told police. He encouraged her to take off her clothes and helped her. He said he was touching her, talking and chatting to her at that time.

"Then she decided she wanted to go back home for some sweets. I told her 'Later.'"

"She started to cry. I tried to placate her but she started shouting and screaming — I panicked."

Mr Green said Evans then told how he had picked up a heavy branch and hit her with it. "I shan't ever forget that — I see myself doing it still. It knocked her out as it was quite a heavy piece of wood. Her head was bleeding."

Evans said that in panic he returned to his car. "I got my spade from it which I used for the allotment."

"When I went back the girl was making gurgling noises. I realised she was dead. I was in a flap. I was going to bury her."

When asked if he would have buried her alive, Evans replied: "I do not know what I was going to do at that time — but in the cold light of day, no."

### 'Inside, I am like a boiling volcano'

After a break in the interview, Evans told police: "It's not much but it's relevant. On Friday, I buried her in leaves and dead branches to stop animals clawing them off."

"I returned on Sunday afternoon. That's when the photographs were taken. I put her clothes in a tree trunk and cut the shoulder straps of her vest with a pocket knife."

When spoken to by police he had shown little remorse or concern about what he had done. He said he found it difficult outwardly to show emotion.

"Inside, I am like a boiling volcano, torn apart by grief, desperately sorry for what has happened. I would do anything to put it right."

For the 14 months since Marie's death he had been "too scared to talk and admit it to anyone." He was sorry for Marie's parents.

Turning to the three child stealing cases, Mr Green said Evans went to Ilford wearing his wig and had his camera with him.

He later told police: "Thank God nothing came of my activities."

Asked if the children would have suffered the same fate as Marie, Evans replied: "I don't know what was in my mind but I don't think it would have gone as far as that."

### 'Massive defect of nature'

He said he did not know when he was going to have "bad days" but most times he could control his feelings.

Outlining Evans's previous convictions, Det Chief Supt. Little said that in December 1966, at the Old Bailey, Evans was fined for indecently assaulting a girl of two, a boy of three and for child stealing.

He had taken the children from a spot near Marie's home to Hainault Forest and indecently assaulted them.

In 1970, at Essex Quarter Sessions, he was jailed for a total of 10 years for a series of indecent assaults on young children in a park.

In July 1978, at Reading Crown Court, he was jailed for three years for indecently assaulting a nine-year-old spastic girl.

In November 1980, he was jailed for six months for indecently assaulting girls of 12.

In 1983 Evans had been bound over for conduct likely to cause a breach of the peace, having apparently written to the parents of children he had assaulted.

Mr Richard Du Cann, Q.C., defending, said: "It will be obvious to anybody listening to these dreadful facts that the defendant suffers from a massive defect of nature which, as he has said, on a number of occasions is at times quite uncontrollable."

Evans was an intelligent man. When sentenced in 1970 to 10 years, he thought he would at last receive some treatment to help him combat or even rectify that defect.

"He cannot do it on his own," said Mr Du Cann. "He needs substantial and sustained help if anything is to be done."

Evans was jailed for life, with a recommendation from the judge that he should serve at least 30 years.



Colin Evans: "An evil, dangerous and unfeeling man."

## The babysitter recruit in a catalogue of blunders

AN alarming catalogue of complacency allowed Colin Evans, son of a former Essex County cricketer, to become the most sadistic child killer since the notorious moors murderers, Ian Brady and Myra Hindley.

The scandal of events leading up to Marie Payne's daylight abduction and death at the hands of a known pervert are bound to lead to demands for a full public inquiry.

And the roles played by prison medical authorities, the police and the probation and social services will come under close scrutiny by any inquiry.

Evans, divorced, with a 17-year-old daughter, was born and brought up in Barking, close to Marie's Dagenham home.

He was aware of his own perversions at least 14 years ago, but an apparent mix-up by prison doctors meant he never received the "essential" treatment he needed to dampen his sexual desires.

### Three fronts

He was released without positive treatment five years later, and after a further seven years, with more child sex abuses to his name, he was amazingly recruited by Berkshire social service as a babysitter.

Evans abducted Marie just four months after he was acquitted of abusing two of the children in his official care at Reading.

Police have also braced themselves for criticism on

three fronts over their failure to capture Evans earlier.

Det. Chief Supt David Little, who led the Scotland Yard inquiry, yesterday defended what he described as "criticism in hindsight" of the police failure to capture Evans.

Describing Evans as one of the 10,000 in Britain with convictions for child sex convictions, Mr Little revealed that one of their errors was in disregarding the "lone voice in the wilderness."

Mr Harry Hatton, an 85-year-old retired Merchant Navy seaman, told police at an early stage of their inquiry that at the time of Marie's early afternoon disappearance he saw a man in a yellow car eating fish and chips outside his home, just three doors away from where Marie's parents lived.

When finally captured Evans told police that before he abducted Marie and drove her off in his velvet Avenger car he had bought fish and chips after visiting his mother.

On the other hand, said Mr Little, there were 10 other witnesses who said Marie was alive in that area at various times between two and five that afternoon.

The main lesson to be learned, according to Mr Little, was to "never ignore the lone voice in the wilderness. He was only one man who had seen Evans, but I chose to ignore him against the word of 19 others."

Defending the fact that Evans had not been detected through routine cross checks, Mr Little pointed out that although he had been convicted of an almost identical, though not fatal, offence in Barking nearly 20 years ago, a new system collating local offenders had not been introduced until the following year, 1987.

### Assaults at 26

"Unfortunately for us that conviction of his was one year too soon."

A third criticism of the investigation is that during a search of Epping Forest after Marie's clothing was found, the police failed, even with helicopter heat seeking equipment, to detect her shallow grave.

To that criticism Mr Little admitted they had searched the area, 250 yards from the tree where Marie's clothing was discovered.

"But there was no mound of earth or anything. It would have been impossible to find her without using trained dog sniffers."

It had taken three weeks to search a 100 yards radius of the tree, so they did not continue any further.

Evans, a former driving instructor, bus driver, petrol station attendant, and latterly lorry driver, first came to the notice of police in 1966, when at the age of 26 he was fined by magistrates for indecent assaults on a two-year-old boy and three-year-old girl.

After serving three jail terms for child offences he earned the sympathy of a senior Reading probation officer, Mr Peter Southerton.

Mr Southerton was deputy chairman of the Reading branch of Toc H, the Christian charity organisation, and introduced Evans as a member. On his release from the six-month sentence in January 1981 he turned to Toc H for help.

They were sympathetic to him, and in April gave him the position of Job Master, with the responsibility for finding work for members of the branch and organising manpower.

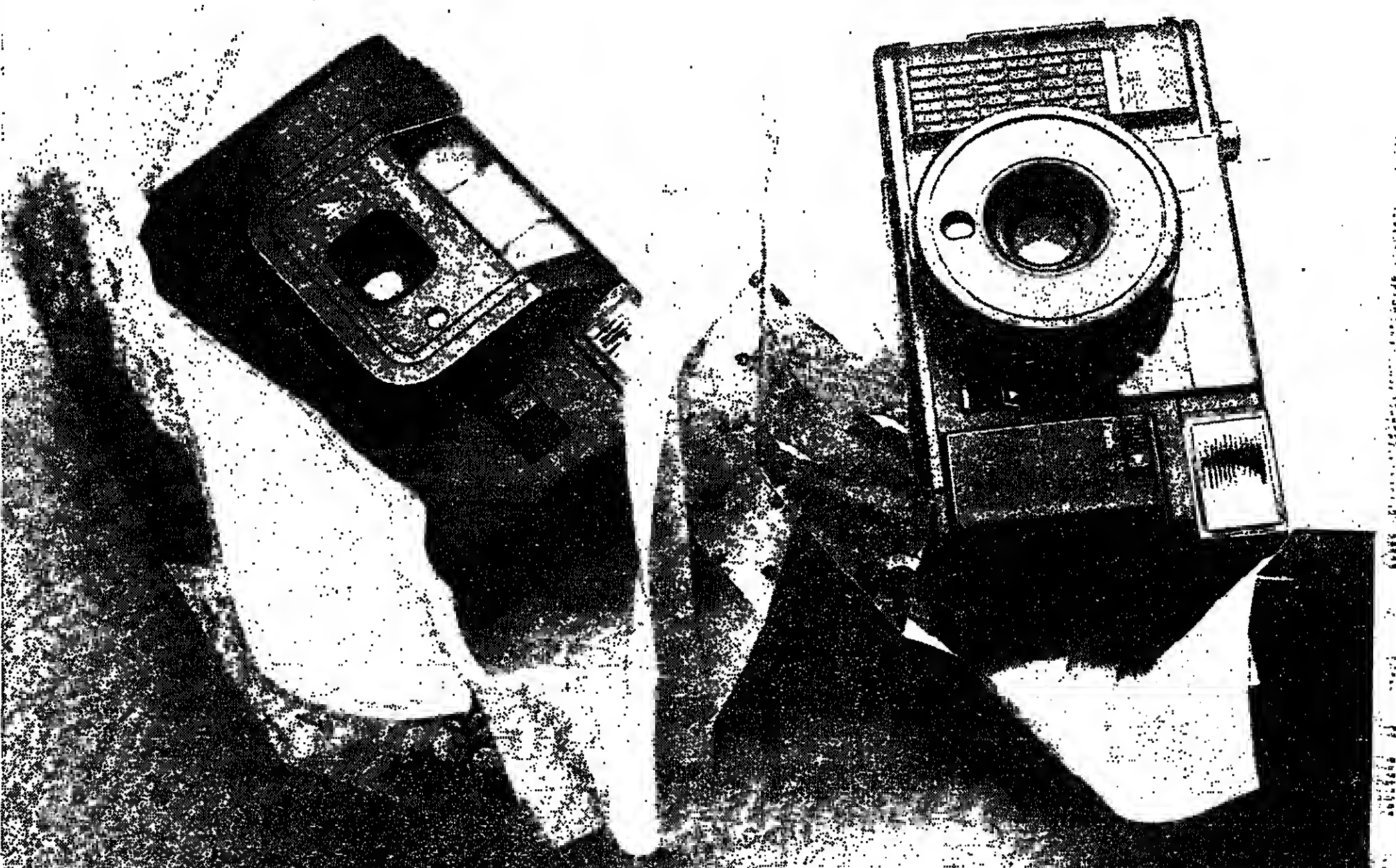
The branch obtained much of its work from Reading Social Services Department, and Evans was introduced in social worker Mrs Brenda Ryan, who was acting as liaison officer between her department and Toc H.

### Job as babysitter

Early in 1982 Mrs Ryan, through another social worker, heard of a family in Reading needing help with babysitting for their three young daughters, aged five, three and two. During February and March, Evans babysat for the family on a regular basis.

The arrangement was ended because of the family's lack of money, but Evans asked if he could continue to take the eldest girl on local outings. When police spotted him with the girl in his car, medical examinations indicated that two of the girls had been interfered with.

# This Christmas, give him something useful to wear round his neck.



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# REBEL BRITAIN DEFIES EEC ON MILK 'FINES'

By GODFREY BROWN Agriculture Correspondent

BRITAIN yesterday defied the Common Market Commission in Brussels and announced it would not be collecting or handing over to Brussels any penal "super-levy" due on excess milk production.

The first instalment of the levy by countries whose dairy farmers had outstripped their limit on production should have been paid by last Saturday.

## £14m DRIVE TO PUT FISH ON MENU

By Our Agriculture Correspondent

THE EEC has given qualified backing to Government plans to pump £7,900,000 into a £14,000,000 campaign to encourage fish-eating in Britain. It was announced in the Commons last night.

The campaign to boost the fish-eating habit in Britain was announced last May. It ran in opposition in Brussels, which sought more information and held off the scheme meanwhile.

But in a Commons written reply last night Mr John MacGregor, Minister of State for Agriculture and Fisheries, announced that the EEC had approved more than three-quarters of the programme proposed by the Sea Fish Industry Authority.

The Authority is a quango formed in 1981 to improve the marketing of fish, administer grants and loans, and carry out research into fishing methods and fish farming. It is financed by a levy on fish catches.

### 'Very good news'

Mr MacGregor said the EEC decision meant the Authority would be able to press ahead with its campaign to improve the marketing of fish in Britain.

"This is very good news indeed," he said. "The Authority can now start its multi-million pound campaign to get fish on the menu."

Meanwhile Common Market grants totalling nearly £2,700,000, mainly for building and modernising inshore fishing vessels, have been awarded to 59 separate projects in Britain. It was announced by the Ministry yesterday.

Scotland gets the lion's share of the EEC grants, with £1,900,000 for 35 projects, followed by England with £465,000 for 18 projects. Northern Ireland gets £203,000 for five projects, and Wales gets just over £33,000 for modernising a fishing vessel at Hylfard.

Mr Jopling, Agriculture Minister, has always insisted Britain would not pay unless he was satisfied the milk quota and levy arrangements were being applied fairly throughout the Community.

The measures were introduced last April to curb the runaway cost of EEC milk surpluses. Mr Jopling was one of nine Common Market Farm Ministers to Brussels last week who called on the Commission to postpone collection of the levy until the end of March. But this request was bluntly rejected by the Commission.

Mr John MacGregor, Minister of State for Agriculture, announced in a Commons-written reply last night that Britain was "suspending action" on the levy "for the time being".

### 'Not satisfied'

The British Government was fully committed to the milk supplementary levy arrangements agreed by Agriculture Ministers last March, he said.

But it was clear from last week's ministerial discussions, and from the position adopted by other member States, that there were differences in interpretation of the rules and uncertainty about the amount of levy due.

According to Dutch sources in Brussels, Britain, Holland, Germany and Belgium have entered into a pact not to pay over to Brussels the first instalment of the levy until next March, because they are not satisfied that collection of the levy will go ahead in other countries.

France was insisting it did not have any levy to pay, Brussels sources said last night. Denmark maintained its farmers had not exceeded their quota and therefore no levy had to be collected.

Ireland has reportedly sent out the bills for levy payments and is expected to collect the levies this week, the sources said.

## DEATH IN CRUSH

By Our Madrid Correspondent

A teenage girl was killed and two others seriously injured yesterday when 2,000 young people crushed into a commercial centre in Oviedo seeking work as extras for a Spanish television film.



## Greenland's EEC exit snagged

By ALAN OSBORN  
Common Market  
Correspondent

GREENLAND's move to become the first territory to leave the EEC has encountered a snag.

Denmark, seeking the secession of Greenland, was told yesterday that at least three of the member countries—France, Italy, and Ireland—have still failed to ratify the EEC treaty amendment permitting Greenland to leave.

The 50,000 Greenlanders voted by about 53 to 47 per cent in a referendum in 1982 to leave the Community. They set Jan. 1, 1985, as the target date for withdrawal.

### Irish adjournment

It now appears that France, Italy, and Ireland, where approval is still unclear, will probably be able to complete the treaty changes by the New Year, leaving only Ireland as the "odd man out".

Irish officials said this resulted less from any opposition to the move than from the fact that the Irish Parliament had adjourned until 1985.

The impression is that an interim deal will be put together by Ministers of the Ten over the next few days so as to allow Greenlanders their celebration on New Year's Day.

The two outstanding problems are the compensation to be paid to Greenland for fishing rights in her waters after she leaves the EEC and the legal aspects of excluding Greenland from the Community's customs regime.

It is expected that each of the 50,000 Greenlanders would effectively get £300 from the EEC in exchange for the right to fish next year.

## EEC split on aid to steel

By Our Common Market Correspondent

COMMON MARKET Ministers were split yesterday on the question of continuing aids for the steel industry, and they put off all important decisions until the New Year.

The effect may be a temporary suspension of production aids to the steel industries in member countries until the Ministers meet again in mid-January.

Mr Norman Lamont, Junior Industry Minister, described yesterday's session as a "holding meeting". He said some members wanted to increase their State aid to the industry beyond what had already been agreed.

### Opposed by Britain

This was strongly opposed by Britain, but he said there might be scope for re-allocating aid within the overall limits.

Mr Lamont added that all 10 EEC countries agreed State aids to steel should finally halt at the end of 1985. France, Italy, Belgium and Luxembourg have sought an extension and increase of aids into 1985.

EEC foreign ministers also began tackling yesterday the terms to offer Spain and Portugal for entry into the EEC following the breakthrough on specific difficult subjects like wine and fisheries reached at the Dublin summit meeting two weeks ago.

The Ministers soon adjourned and are to return to the subject today.

## SEMINARY FOR POLISH BAPTISTS

By Our Churches Correspondent

POLAND's growing Baptist Church is to build a new seminary at Radosc, 12 miles east of Warsaw, next year.

After 40 years of uncertainty about ownership of the land because documents were lost during the 1939-45 War and 12 years of negotiations, the President of Warsaw City Council has confirmed Baptist entitlement to the site.

## 'Star Wars' strategy still undecided in U.S.

By RICHARD BEESTON in Washington

THE American negotiating position on space weapons, including anti-satellite weapons and system, is still to be decided.

Some tough decisions will be needed before the arms negotiations next month in Geneva.

Mr George Shultz, Secretary of State, is reported to want to show some flexibility in addressing Moscow concerns over a new arms race in space.

But one of the Administration's chief arms negotiators, Gen. Edward Rowwey, was quoted yesterday as stating that the United States should offer no new proposals but wait for Moscow to make the first move.

One possible compromise that may be offered to the Russians is a moratorium on the development and testing of anti-satellite weapons—a technology in which America is about to overtake the Soviet Union.

The United States is now ready to try out its newest satellite-killer, but the "Star Wars" project is still only in the research stage.

### 'Moral obligation'

"I don't know quite how you bargain about a research programme," Mr Shultz told NATO allies in Brussels last week, "but you can certainly talk about it."

Mrs Thatcher in her meeting with President Reagan at Camp David on Saturday will certainly convey the expressions of concern "Star Wars" programme has displayed an attitude that "whoever controls space controls the world."

President Reagan believes the United States has a "moral obligation" to develop a "Star Wars" anti-missile defence technology. He intends to try to persuade the Soviet Union to accept the system holds out the prospect of greater nuclear stability.

But "Star Wars" or the Strategic Defence Initiative as it is officially known, has become highly controversial, both inside and outside the Administration, since it was announced by President Reagan on March 23, 1983.

### Laser devices

Since then the Administration has increased the budget for research on defensive missile systems by \$250 million (£209 million) to \$1.17 billion (£982 million) in the coming fiscal year.

The Administration now says its provisions spending about \$26 billion (£21 billion) to develop and test a research and development over the next four years.

The SDI is a research programme for a non-nuclear defence system dependent on an array of laser and other directed-energy devices to shoot down Soviet nuclear missiles in space. The anti-satellite system is also non-nuclear, involving missiles with conventional warheads launched from F-15 jet aircraft.

The Russians have charged that "Star Wars" shows an intention by the Administration to violate a 1972 treaty signed by America and the Soviet Union prohibiting anti-ballistic missile defence. The Administration says research is permitted in the treaty.

Opponents of the scheme say the defensive system would make nuclear war more likely and accelerate the arms race.

Mr Reagan's "Star Wars" speech called on scientists to find "the means of rendering nuclear weapons impotent and obsolete" by destroying missiles "before they reached our own soil or that of our allies."

Four arms-control experts from earlier Administrations declared last month that there was no hope that "Star Wars" can make nuclear weapons obsolete.

The former Defence Secretary Robert McNamara, National Security Adviser Mr McGeorge Bundy, Soviet expert George Kennan and arms negotiator Mr Gerard Smith concluded that even if "Star Wars" proved 95 per cent effective, 10,000 strategic warheads

## PREMIER'S HIDDEN INCOME

By TONY ALLEN-MILLS  
in New York

SIR LYNDEN PINDLING, Prime Minister of the Bahamas, escaped major blame when a Royal Commission report of corruption and money laundering reached the highest levels of the islands' Government.

But the report still found that his expenditure in recent years had far exceeded his income.

Sir Lynden had been accused of a central role in a network of corruption that last October led to the highest Government shake-up of his 17 years in office—three Ministers resigned and two were sacked.

After a year of hearings the panel of three commissioners, led by Sir James Smith, a former Supreme Court justice, concluded that corrupt payments and money laundering reached the highest levels of the islands' Government.

But the report said it was unable to confirm allegations that Sir Lynden took bribes from American drug smugglers using the Bahamas to ship drugs to the continent.

Unexplained \$192,000

"It was apparent that the Prime Minister's expenditure over the years from 1977 has far exceeded his income," two of the commissioners wrote in the majority report.

They said they had been unable to obtain explanations for deposits worth \$192,000. Sir Lynden's account. Despite this, "none of the known sources of funds made available to him appear to have been drug related."

But in a dissenting note, the third commissioner, Bishop Brexell Gomez, criticised the veteran Prime Minister for "lack of prudence."

"It is certainly feasible that all of these payments could have been made from non-drug-related sources. But in my opinion the circumstances raise great suspicion and I find it impossible to say that the payments were all non-drug related," the Bishop wrote.

### Smuggler's tale

A Boston drug smuggler, who gave evidence to the commission, claimed to have witnessed a \$85,000 pay-off to Sir Lynden from Robert Vesco, the American fugitive financier.

But the commissioners decided they could not believe the smuggler's story for lack of corroborative evidence.

Opposition leaders who saw the report called for Sir Lynden's resignation on the grounds that "even if he did not do these things directly, the fact is they have been occurring and he is responsible."

But Sir Lynden, who throughout the affair had portrayed himself as a victim of a conspiracy by his political enemies, has shown no signs of stopping down.

Some observers believe he may soon call elections to prevent Parliament from discussing the report. Under Bahamas procedures a newly elected Parliament may not discuss business left unfinished by the previous MPs.

## BRITISH FARM FAMILY TO BE DEPORTED

By Our Auckland Correspondent

Mr Charles Gardner, 57, a Welshman, his English-born wife Ann, 49, and their two daughters, a son-in-law and two grandchildren have been told they are to be deported.

The Gardners, who arrived from Britain two years ago, invested £250,000 in two properties on North Island and began research into four-toed ewes, a concept which they claim, is now being investigated by New Zealand agricultural scientists.

They pleaded guilty to court to setting without permanent residential permits. Dozens of fellow-residents in Okakune, where the Gardners have been living, have signed a petition calling for a review of the deportation order.

## MOSCOW MENDS TOKYO FENCES

By NIGEL WADE in Moscow

A significant rapprochement between Moscow and the most important non-ruling Communist party in Asia took place in the Kremlin yesterday when President Chernenko received Mr Kenji Miyamoto, chairman of the Communist party of Japan.

It was the first meeting between Japanese and Soviet party leaders since Mr Miyamoto had talks with President Brezhnev in Moscow in December, 1979. The Japanese delegation was enraged and gravely embarrassed by the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

# Western banks are growing fonder of aiding East bloc

By ANNE SECALL Banking Correspondent

THERE are signs of a major thaw in the attitude of Western banks to providing credits for Eastern Europe after a freeze lasting nearly three years.

Leading London bankers claim that lending to Comecon countries is back in style.

And this is demonstrated by the huge success of both Russia and Hungary in raising large amounts of new money in Western capital markets.

More recently representatives of Hungary's National Bank travelled to London for the signing of a \$500 million (£250 million) Euroloan. The loan had been increased from the \$250 million (£125 million) originally sought because of the enthusiasm of leading banks.

Dr Jaos Fekete, vice-president of the National Bank, said that Hungary had managed to raise more than \$1 billion (£500 million) from Western commercial banks so far this year—more than it needed. He hinted that further large loans are planned.

### Nat West key role

National Westminster, one of the Big Four banks, has played a key role in promoting the return of Eastern European borrowers to Western capital markets.

A spokesman for NatWest said that the latest Hungarian loan was likely to be followed by a big loan for East Germany.

If that works, other countries like Romania will probably be tempted to raise funds in the West next year, NatWest believes.

Western banks clamped down on loans to Eastern Europe after the Polish debts crisis in the Spring of 1981. Before that, they had already become wary of increased lending to Russia following the invasion of Afghanistan in 1979.

The Polish debts crisis came as a big shock to Western

banks as Poland was the first major debtor nation to default on its international obligations. Banks had lent heavily to Poland in the 1970s and were owed roughly £12 billion when Poland announced it could no longer afford to pay them back.

Banks were particularly upset by the failure of the "ombrella theory" whereby they had assumed that Russia would step in and prevent any member of the Comecon block from defaulting on its debts.

The Polish debt debacle was followed in quick succession by debt crises in Rumania and Yugoslavia, forcing both countries to follow Poland in seeking the rescheduling of their initial debts. Between them, these countries rescheduled more than £20 billion worth of debts.

But banks now say they are impressed with the efforts made by Eastern European countries to overcome the impact of the world recession and get their finances back in order. Hungary is particularly admired because it has managed to pay its way throughout the worst of the recession and has built up its hard currency reserves to around \$2 billion (£1.6 billion) from a low of \$300 million (£250 million) in 1982.

Even Poland, whose economy is still badly bruised, has won the respect of bankers by meeting its interest obligations fully.

Eastern Europe's problems have paled by comparison with those encountered by banks in Latin America where just one borrower, Mexico, has failed to pay twice as much as the whole Comecon block.

Banks have also found that they have had to lend their Latin American customers extra money simply to receive interest on past loans, whereas in Eastern Europe interest has been paid out of the debtor country's own resources.

# Afghan deserter will return to Russia

By RICHARD BEESTON in Washington

STATE Department officials yesterday interviewed a Soviet soldier who defected from Afghanistan and now wants to return to Russia. They determined that he had made his decision "freely and voluntarily."

The soldier, Nikolai Ryzhkov, 20, deserted a year ago and later denounced his country for waging a "dirty war" against the Afghan people.

A Soviet Embassy official said yesterday that Pte Ryzhkov had contacted the Russian Embassy and asked them to arrange for his return home. "He is a Soviet citizen and he wants to go back home. It was his personal decision."

"He came to us several days ago. It's his decision to go home and he will go home."

Smuggled to Europe

Pte Ryzhkov slipped away from a Russian military construction unit in June, 1983, and contacted anti-Soviet Afghan resistance fighters in Kabul. He was hidden by them for several months before being smuggled to Europe.

He later told a news conference that many Soviet draftees serving in Afghanistan were ill-prepared, both politically and sometimes militarily, and had become demoralised about their country's chances of success.

"We were told he would be coming to the southern border of the Soviet Union and would be facing American and Chinese mercenaries," he said at the time. He added: "When I arrived my opinion changed."

"I didn't want to be part of that 'dirty war' and that is why I deserted," Pte Ryzhkov said. He had three months of military service in complete before being sent to Afghanistan.

Mr Ryzhkov, who lives in self-imposed exile in Spain, was chosen party president by about 315 delegates to the original 670-member party Congress.

"The Buenos Aires Province party leaders and one powerful trade-union grouping intend to retain control at the risk of dividing the party," said Senator Labake, a member of the movement's senior executive, appointed by Mrs Peron last June.

The executive was meeting yesterday to study the possibility of mediation.

"The dissidents have set up a 48-member body 'to reconstruct Peronism'."

## BRAZIL FLOODS

Heavy rain and flooding in Brazil's south-eastern Minas Gerais State killed 11 people, eight of them children, and left at least 2,500 homeless over the weekend, a fire brigade spokesman said yesterday in Rio de Janeiro. —REUTERS.

## TWENTY YEARS OF CARTOONS by GARLAND

A selection that illustrates the qualities that have won Garland the respect of Fleet Street and the affection of a politically wide-ranging readership.

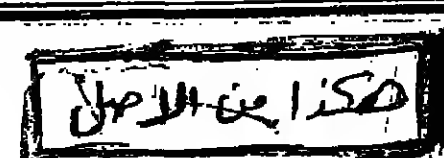
Available through leading bookshops, the Telegraph bookshop at 130, Fleet Street, price £4.95, or by post, London, EC4. (Please add 55p postage & packing).



# Royal Society Esso Energy Award 1985

The Award is intended to promote the more efficient use of all existing energy sources and to stimulate the development of new energy resources at a time of rising costs. Previous awards have been made for work in the following areas: improvements in efficiency in power stations; optimum start and shut-down times for heating systems; solar energy utilisation; the application of gas turbines to total energy systems; heat exchanger networks in industrial processes; a co-ordinated traffic signals system; and a recuperative burner system for gas-fired furnaces and a new fuel-saving compound for motor vehicle tyres.

The Royal Society Esso Energy Award was instituted in 1974 and consists of a gold medal and a prize of £2,000. It is awarded for outstanding contributions to the advance of science, engineering and technology leading to the more efficient mobilisation, use or conservation of energy resources. Nominations for the Award are required by the 25th January 1985. For further details, please contact: The Executive Secretary, (Ref. PRG) The Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5AG.





## SALE TEAMS IN PEKING FEEL SIBERIA WINDS

By RUGH DAVIES in Peking

AN icy wind from Siberia cut through the streets of Peking yesterday as British businessmen contemplated yet another cold and exceptionally hard sales day.

All are hopeful that Mrs Thatcher's signature on the Hongkong declaration tomorrow will ease their uphill task of securing a profitable investment in China.

But the signs are that the Chinese, notoriously hard-nosed in all dealings and especially the Hongkong negotiations, are still shopping around for bargain-basement prices on foreign technology and expertise.

The British are also hampered by the apparent naïveté of competitors such as the Americans, who seemed to be overawed by the prospect of the vast China market and are making what seem to be ridiculous deals.

One United States firm is reported to have offered discounts which even surprised the Chinese. However, the Americans seem to feel that it is vital to get a toe-hold in China at any cost.

**'Enormous potential'**  
As one machinery salesman from New Jersey commented, "the potential is just enormous."

High-powered sales teams currently visiting Peking include experts from British Airways seeking to seal all aspects of airline management from helicopter sales to computer software and booking flights.

Mr Howard Phelps, director of B.A.'s operations, said Shao Yu, director of the Chinese airline C.A.C., struck an optimistic note for further co-operation. He added that B.A. was open to ideas including joint ventures with the Chinese.

British Aerospace is hotly tipped to sell its new medium-sized BAe 146 jet to replace ageing Antonov turboprops flown by CAAC.

The sales pitch included a red carpet tour by the plane of 30 cities in China including Lhasa, the Tibetan capital.

And the firm advertised itself heavily at a recent Peking aviation exhibition with officials passing to eager hands a specially produced four-page leaflet on aircraft in China.

Negotiations seem to be going well but have become

protracted with reports circulating in Peking that the Chinese want the company to shave at least a million dollars off the plane's \$15 million U.S. price tag.

China is said to be using the argument that a well-known United States firm seems to be willing to slash their prices by even larger amounts.

On a more positive note Mr Jeremy Thomas, a British film maker who produced "Merry Christmas" Mr Lawrence starring David Bowie and Tom Conti, is finalising details in Peking of an epic to be shot in China on the life of Pu Yi, the last emperor.

He said yesterday: "It will be on the scale of 'Gandhi' and the Chinese, who have been most helpful, are allowing us to film all over the country."

A leading British actor is to take the main role and the film, costing \$20 million, is being directed by Bernardo Bertolucci, who directed "Last Tango in Paris."

Pu Yi ascended the throne at the age of three and died of cancer at 61 as chief gardener in Peking's botanical gardens.

**'Two years of chaos'**

Meanwhile, the Chinese media continued its optimistic tone over Hongkong, with the New China News Agency saying that the Sino-British pact had put an end to "two years of chaos" in the colony's stock market.

A commentary said that most residents regarded the settlement as better than expected. With "worries gradually removed" they were now "more confident" of Hongkong's future.

The colony's Hang Seng Index jumped 24.33 points to 1166.63 yesterday as stocks were snapped up by investors anticipating new highs with Mrs Thatcher's visit.

The market was also helped by a fresh injection of confidence into the property market, with the \$400 million sterling sale of a development project.



Chinese soldiers on special fatigues in Peking—sweeping the snow from the entrance to the Great Hall of the People in preparation for Mrs Thatcher's arrival today.

## Judge throws out 'vindictive' Packer action

By DENIS WARNER in Melbourne

THE Supreme Court in New South Wales yesterday dismissed as an "abuse of process" proceedings for defamation by Mr Kerry Packer, the media magnate and World Series cricket promoter, against Mr Douglas Meagher, Q.C., the counsel who assisted the Costigan Royal Commission into organised crime.

Mr Justice Hunt said it could be clearly inferred that the main reason Mr Packer had brought the action was to

investigate the conduct of the Royal Commission.

That was not a purpose for which defamation proceedings were designed or existed, Mr Meagher, he said, had successfully called Mr Packer's bluff.

Mr Packer issued a statement of claim early last week against Mr Meagher for unspecified damages, alleging he was responsible for leaking summaries of the Costigan Royal Commission report to the National Times, a Fairfax weekly published in Sydney.

Two days later Mr Meagher served Mr Packer's solicitors with an affidavit denying the allegations.

This led Mr Packer to seek to discontinue the defamation action. Notice of discontinuance was lodged in the New South Wales Supreme Court last Friday.

Counsel for Mr Meagher argued that the notice of discontinuance should be struck out and the proceedings should be dismissed as an abuse of the court process.

Mr Justice Hunt, in his judgment yesterday, said Mr

Packer's notice of discontinuance had been filed as soon as he had been asked for particulars of his claim. It seemed to have been meant to prevent Mr Meagher from forcing Mr Packer to substantiate his allegations.

"All of these circumstances suggest to me very strongly that there may indeed have been a vindictive desire on the part of the plaintiff to make the defendant as uncomfortable as possible for as long as possible, to punish him for his part in the compilation of the report of the Royal Commission," said the judge.

## Mitterrand fights to regain support of voters

By MICHAEL FIELD in Paris

WITH the popularity of President Mitterrand and his government at a dangerously low point, party leaders have launched a campaign to regain lost support.

They hope to do so in time to fend off a disaster in the Parliamentary elections of 1986.

M. Mitterrand, who last Sunday set his foreign policy record straight in a 90-minute television interview, said he would broadcast again during January on domestic affairs.

**Rhetoric change**

He seems to have accepted advice that he should concentrate more on home affairs such as the state of the economy, unemployment and what he calls "the defence of the least favoured classes against the oppression of poverty."

M. Laurent Fabius, the Prime Minister, who made a weekend fighting speech at a Socialist party convention in Evry, held to discuss "modernisation," is expected to convert some anti-Right-wing rhetoric into acts.

His first move will be to announce a national training

programme in January aimed at reconciling modernisation with solving the employment problems caused by making firms more economic and productive.

The first practical test for the Socialists will be to try and run a successful campaign for the cantonal elections in March. These important local government polls are seen as a kind of dress rehearsal for the 1986 general election.

"Progress versus reaction" is to be the theme, underlined last Sunday by M. Fabius in his invitation to M. Chirac and M. Barre, his Right-wing predecessors in the Premiership, to debate things with him separately on television.

The party rank and file are not convinced that the Government's thesis that Socialist management will, in the long run, be the best propaganda.

### SKI 'CATASTROPHE'

Only 29 of 130 Swiss ski resorts were open for business by mid-December because of a lack of snow, a spokesman for the Swiss national tourist office said yesterday. He described the situation as "catastrophic."

## Tamils appeal to U.N. over troop 'atrocities'

By DAVID GRAVES in Jaffna, Sri Lanka

THE Jaffna Citizens' Committee, an umbrella group of professional Tamils in the troubled north of Sri Lanka, appealed yesterday for the United Nations and International Red Cross to prevent further "atrocities" by Government troops.



Mr Ramalingam Balasubramaniam, a lawyer and committee secretary, said: "We must be protected to prevent further massacres by troops."

He alleged a further 65 innocent civilians had been killed by soldiers last month during search-and-arrest operations in the northern peninsula in which at least 1,200 men, mostly aged between 18 and 30, had been detained.

The Government in Colombo has consistently maintained that the only civilians killed were those caught in crossfire between troops and Tamil rebels fighting for a separate State in the north and east of Sri Lanka.

Mr Balasubramaniam claimed more than 200 civilians had been massacred this year in the Jaffna peninsula.

"The Government is supposed to defend us—yet the Army is killing us," he said. "We need impartial observers to tell the world what is happening."

### 'Wife raped'

The Government has admitted that 725 people, whom it described as terrorist suspects, had been initially detained last week during two round-the-clock curfews totalling 105 hours.

The Citizens' Committee secretary counter-claimed: "The Army has been simply rounding up every male aged between 18 and 30."

Anxious parents clustered outside Mr Balasubramaniam's home with letters from their sons' employers guaranteeing their identity, so he could pass them on to the Government Agent in Jaffna to plead for their release.

As they milled around him a woman aged 22 arrived, eight months pregnant, whose husband is overseas, to complain she had been raped by a soldier at gunpoint.

Mr Balasubramaniam said: "The Army Commander tells us 'These things happen. We have black sheep among us.'"

### TEACHER ACCUSED

By Our Athens Correspondent  
A Greek school teacher, said to have described Eastern-bloc regimes as the "worst form of democracy" and the "wall of shame," faces disciplinary action for allegedly teaching anti-Communist propaganda.

Education Ministry sources confirmed in Athens yesterday. It is thought unlikely Dimostheneos Patakos, 54, will suffer more than a public admonishment.

# GLENMORANGIE

## 10 YEARS OLD

### SINGLE HIGHLAND MALT SCOTCH WHISKY



5. GEORGE MACKENZIE, one of Glenmorangie's three mashmen, bicycles through the moonlight, as mist wreathes the fields around the distillery. The lateness of the hour testifies to the constant, anxious care demanded by the sweetly pungent 'mash'—the infant whisky. While the world sleeps, George keeps watch. Not until ten years have passed—and the spirit has reached full maturity—will his vigilance achieve its true reward.

Handcrafted by the Sixteen Men of Tain.

## RIVAL TO GANDHI IN AIR CRASH

By BALRAM TANDON in New Delhi

CHARAN SINGH, 82, former Indian prime minister who is chief contender for the leadership of Mr Gandhi's Congress party loses the election, had a narrow escape when a plane in which he was travelling crash-landed in Uttar Pradesh yesterday.

The undercarriage of the four-seater aircraft failed to come down and the aircraft bounded and skidded while landing at Banars airport.

Mr Singh and his companions were not injured. He is by far the most important Opposition leader to India, standing for a "rightful share" for the peasants who comprise the majority of the population.

His Harkisan Mandor party (Down-trodden Peasants and Workers party) is a hotch-potch of former middle-of-the-road socialists, defectors from Congress and trade unionists.

**Contentious issue**

Use of quick transport has become contentious because Mr Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, is "showing to campaign with an Indian Air Force helicopter."

The Election Commission in a code-of-conduct framed earlier this year confined the use of Government-owned aircraft or helicopters to the Prime Minister, provided his party pays the expenses.

Surprisingly the Opposition parties accepted this, but when the election campaign began they found themselves at a disadvantage.

At least four Indian states are being visited by Opposition Chief Ministers, and their requests to charter aircraft and helicopters from the state were rejected.







# How Whitehall decides whether local councils are on target.



Every year Whitehall sets spending targets for local authorities throughout the country.

This year, under the new ratecapping laws, these targets have become absolute spending limits for those authorities on the so-called "government hit-list."

So it is more important than ever to understand how Whitehall sets its targets in the first place.

According to the 1984 Audit Commission Report (a government document) they are based on information that is inadequate and out of date.

Which is bad enough. But matters are made worse by the fact that Whitehall sets more than one target for each authority.

There's one based on its assessment of general needs throughout the country. And another based on precedents of needs and spending in each area.

The difference between the two is often quite staggering. For example, an authority which actually underspent one target by 4 per cent were judged to be 82 per cent overspenders

against the other target.

Whitehall also has the power to put its own value on particular local needs, or to increase or decrease money allowed for exceptional cases.

So it can and does treat prosperous and poor communities differently. But not quite in the way you might expect.

For example, the biggest overspender in the country (according to government figures) is the extremely affluent City of London. Yet the City of London will not be ratecapped.

The most deprived borough in the country (again according to a government assessment) will be ratecapped.

Even though its spending plans are decidedly modest by comparison, and its needs enormous.

So Whitehall not only makes the rules, it applies them in arbitrary, inefficient and unjust ways.

And as nobody can vote out a Whitehall civil servant, the traditional democratic means of ensuring fair play no longer apply.

## Ratecapping makes no sense.











## COURT AND SOCIAL

## Court Circular

KENSINGTON PALACE.

Dec. 17.

The Duke of Gloucester, President, National Association of Boys' Clubs, this evening attended a dinner to mark the launching of the Association's Diamond Jubilee Year 1985 at the Mansion House, London.

E.C.A. Col Sir Simon Bland was in attendance.

The Duchess of Gloucester was present this evening at the Westminster Christmas Appeal.

The presentation of "The Story of Christmas" at St George's Church, Haover Square, London, W.1, this evening followed the reception held at St George's Church, Haover Square, London, W.1.

Mrs. Michael Wigley was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE.

Dec. 17.

Princess Alexandra was present this evening at a gala

performance of the pantomime "Jack and the Beanstalk" in aid of the National Playing Fields Association, at Richmond Theatre, Surrey. Lady Mary Fitzalan-Howard was in attendance.

The Hon. Mrs. Robert Law gave birth to a daughter in Northamptonshire on Sunday.

Miss Alice Saxby has been discharged from hospital and is convalescing at home. She is recovering well and is expected to be home in a few days.

The Duchess of Gloucester will not be sending cards this year.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Mr. Christopher Fry is 77 today.

Mrs. Sir Brian Balfour is 74.

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## BALANCING ACT FOR KASPAROV

By B. H. WOOD Chess Correspondent

YET another World Chess Championship draw came in the 33rd game in Moscow yesterday.

This time the agreement on Gary Kasparov's proposal was perfectly legitimate, the final position offering nothing to either player.

With his seventh move in a Semi-Slav Defence, he seems to have discovered (or traced somewhere in previous play) a complicated but safe way of forcing a drawn game.

His position around Move 15 is balanced on a knife-edge, but his threat of mate by 16...Q-K8 gives a priceless tempo.

Kasparov would be happy to draw with the black pieces, by Anatoly Karpov is famous for his power with the white.

Taste of victory

Many expected Karpov to postpone last Friday's game after the shock of his first defeat last Wednesday. With the announcement of the result came the news that the game was postponed any way, because "the hall was needed for another event, arranged months before."

Nobody expected this match to go on so long, but Karpov got "time-out" without sacrificing his precious option to postpone.

It is fanciful to think that Kasparov could win the match yet from a score of 1-5 down. The match goes to the first to win six. To taste victory after 31 failures must surely give him new heart with the white pieces in the next game starting (barring a postponement) tomorrow.

Incidentally, audiences the world over favour the underdog. Kasparov received a wonderful reception, Karpov a formal one.

Up by 42 p.c.

At Bowood, Wilts., the Earl's success story with a 42 per cent increase in visitors to the house and rhododendron garden.

Gardens throughout the country benefited from the fine summer. Exbury Gardens, near Southampton had the largest reported number of visitors, although less well known than such as Roden Hall, Shropshire, which reported a 35 per cent increase, are all showing substantial increases in visitors.

The good weather also helped Exbury's sales, which were up by 42 per cent. The Earl's success story with a 42 per cent increase in visitors to the house and rhododendron garden.

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## Strikes hit visits to historic houses

By ROBERT BEDLOW Estates Correspondent

THERE has been an average increase of five per cent in the number of visitors to privately-owned historic houses and gardens this year.

But the Historic Houses Association said that industrial action had taken its toll in the tourist and leisure industry.

It said that many privately-owned properties identified the miners' strike and the teachers' strike as a factor where visitors declined, through fewer school visits and family outings.

Others blamed the late Easter, the traditional start to the "open house season," which meant they were open fewer days over the year.

For the second year running Warwick Castle was visited by more people than any other property, with 590,000 in Scotland alone.

The Duke of Argyll, was top of the league.

Appearing as a location for television or film programmes, considerably helped some houses (Floors Castle, location for the feature film "Greystoke" Rockingham Castle, used in the television series "By the Sword Divided," and Hergecroft Gardens, used for an edition of "Gardeners' World").

All had a substantial increase in visitors.

Up by 42 p.c.

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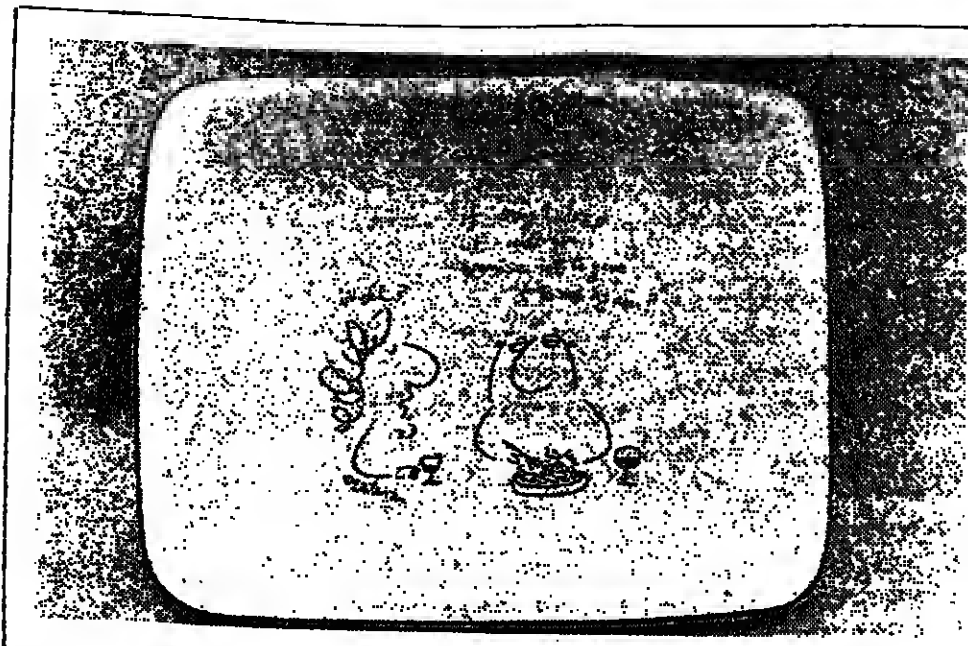
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## Serving up wit

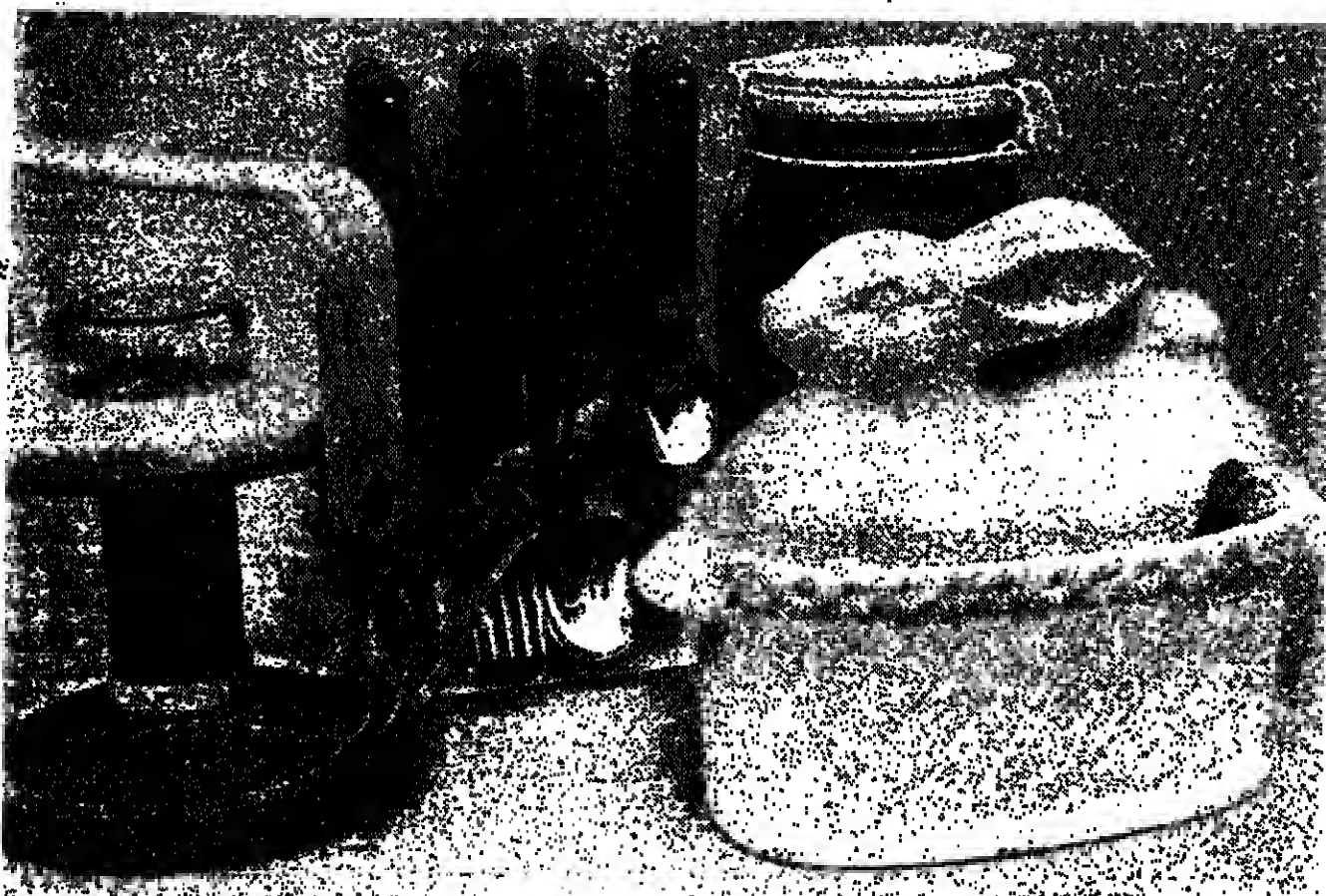
THIS Christmas's wittiest range of flan, baking and soufflé dishes is humorously decorated by the cartoonist Calman, to whom the man in the domestic disasters bears a passing resemblance.

The odd couple (as on the oblong baking dish pictured left) are gloomily portrayed having the kind of truncated conversations married people specialise in. "Well?" asks the wife. "If I say I liked it, would you promise not to give it to me again," replies her husband.

A companion plate says: "If you take my advice, you'll like it." Or: "Made with love is it?" "No, leftovers."

The range is dishwasher- and freezer-proof. The baking dish shown costs from £6.90 to £9.20, depending on size. Made by Honiton, the range is available from The Cartoon Gallery, 83 Lambs Conduit Street, London, WC1. Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, London SW1, and good kitchen shops.

## A bargain hunter's guide, as the stores stand by for sales-time



PICTURED ABOVE, FROM LEFT: Bedon Bistre teapot in fireproof glass with plastic handle and lid plus tea filter, £21.95 to £12.95; six-piece stainless-steel cutlery set on stand, dishwasher proof, with blue, green, grey or white handles, £21.50 to £14.95; 11-pine storage jar, £3.95 to £2.50; all from Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Italian ceramic rabbit dish, part of a range which includes larger soup tureens and terrines in the shape of pigs, cows and chickens, £15 to £7.50, from Harrods, Knightsbridge, London SW1.

ONCE again the January sales, which now crowd together immediately after Christmas, will provide ideal pickings for shoppers disciplined enough to visit them.

The first sales start on the day after Boxing Day, providing the ideal retreat for those who feel they have had quite enough of Christmas to last until next year.

One of the big temptations at sale-time is to buy the suddenly affordable luxury that is often marked down because it is an unfashionable colour or because the buyer made an expensive mistake. Don't make the same mistake yourself.

SANDERSON'S sale starts Saturday, December 29, fortuitously selecting that moment of reawakening after Christmas when bargain hunters will be crowding London's Oxford Street, ready to make the short diversion to the tranquillity of Berners Street.

These days, Sanderson sells much more than the fabrics and wallpapers on which its reputation is based. There will be bargains in all departments, including a wide range of printed fabrics, cut from £11.75 to £4.95 for a linen union and satin-faced reps at £6.50 (£18.95) all seconds quality. Sanderson is at 52 Berners Street, London, W1.

THE REJECT CHINA SHOP'S three branches are starting their sale on

Thursday, December 27, when there will be large stocks of all the top-selling names in tableware. Manufacturers such as Royal Worcester, Hornsea and Masons will need no introduction and prices are cut by between 25 to 50 per cent.

It could be a wise moment to invest in a spring wedding present, with cutlery reduced by 25 per cent. Reject China Shops are at 34 Beaulamp Place, London, SW3; 185 Brompton

BY ELIZABETH WILLIAMSON

Road, London, SW3; 154 Regent Street, London W1.

It is also a good moment to buy a new bed at the three branches of AND SO TO BED which now has an offshoot in Edinburgh. The 5ft 6in bed called Nathalie, by the Italian manufacturer Flox, is to be discontinued, a fact reflected in the price of £695 (£1,250). This fully-upholstered bed with its orthopaedic mattress, padded headboard and matching base cover, is sold complete with duvet and cover, fitted sheet and pillowcases.

Otherwise there is a large range of the brass reproduction beds for which the shops are noted. The sale starts on Thursday, December 27.

And So To Bed is at 636/640 King's Road, London, SW6, with branches at 7 New King's Road,

London, SW6 and 26 Castle Street, Edinburgh. CYRUS CARPETS sale, which begins on Thursday December 27, includes a 50 per cent reduction on over 70 of its carpets and rugs, which come from Iran, Turkey, India, Pakistan, China and Afghanistan. The company's stock ranges in price from £25 to £115,000. Cyrus Carpets is at 47 Piccadilly, London W1.

More beds are at THE LONDON BEDDING CENTRE, whose sale also

starts on Thursday, December 27. There won't be many people competing for the star bargain, I suspect. This is a reproduction of The Great Bed of Ware, the original of which can be viewed in the Victoria and Albert Museum.

At half-price, the reproduction costs £2,250 complete with curtains and covers; it measures a massive 6ft 6in square. Some showroom models are half-price and orders placed during the sale for normal stock earn a 25 per cent reduction. The London Bedding Centre is at 26/27 Sloane Street, London, SW1.

HARRODS is starting its sale on January 4, when the marathon bargain hunt will account for 500 additional tills recording something in excess of the £27 million the store took last

year. There will be 900 sale bin tables and 30 temporary dressing-rooms to accommodate the army of 300,000 or so shoppers expected on the first day.

The bargain-hunters will be picking over five discontinued Hornsea patterns, half-price. For connoisseurs there will be a small supply of Hornsea's beautifully shaped "Image" only ever stocked by Harrods and Heal's.

Other temptations include a mahogany canteen

imperfect though one cannot see why, for £33.75 (£54).

SELFLEDGES' sale starts on the popular day of Friday, December 28, when a 10-piece brass band will play to the bargain shoppers.

Outstanding bargains are to be found everywhere, with half-price mobair travel rugs at £14.95, double wool blankets at £19.95, Coloroll quilt covers at £8.95, single size, and Bassetti embroidered quilt covers at £18.95, double size. King-size Fogarty new duck-down duvets are down from £180 to £89.95. Selfridges is in Oxford Street, London W1.

MAPLES' sale, starting on Thursday, December 27, will include 20 per cent reductions on its extensive range of American furniture and half-prices on items such as lamps.

Antique-effect solid pine dining and living-room furniture has its prices carved. A table, for example, which will cost £951 next year is £699. Maples is at Tottenham Court Road, London W1.

JOHN LEWIS' sale starts on Friday, December 28, and as prices are already so keen, the bargains on offer are considerable. Polaris stainless steel saucepans, always a good buy at prices from £24.50, are even more so at £14. Le Creuset saucepans are from £6.25 (£10.50) and white ceramic cookware and dishes are useful for the freezer at £3.45 (£4.95). John Lewis is in Oxford Street, London, W1.

IDEAS FOR LIVING is the shopfront for Lin Pac, which manufactures the Italian Kartell range of moulded plastic furniture.

The sale, which starts on Wednesday, January 2, will include bargains such as a metal bookcase, £59 (£108.15), plastic chairs in bright primary colours for £16.85 (£23.50) and metal coat stands at £29 (£45.50). Ideas for Living is at 5 Kensington High Street, London W8.

The CUTLERY SHOP starts its sales on Thursday, December 27, and the sale offers some bargains: 84 pieces of silver-plated cutlery in the traditional head pattern costs £795 (£1,050).

Solid silver is available at a price: 127 pieces of Versailles sterling silver, including a carving set by Roberts and Bell costs £5,450 (£7,095). The Cutlery Shop is at 50-52 Chancery Lane, London WC2, or in-store at the following shops: Loulens, 154 Regent Street, London W1; Debenhams, Oxford Street, London W1; Romford, Essex; Horrocks, Middlesex; Cambridge; Bristol and Croydon, Surrey. It is also at Bentalls, Kingston upon Thames and Worthing, Sussex.



PICTURED ABOVE: bird bowl by Andrew McGarva £47.50, from The British Crafts Centre, 43 Earlham Street, London WC2, two pierced pot-pourri containers by West Marshall £43 each, stoneware sparrow by Rosemary Wren £23.65; all from The Craftsman Potters Shop, William Blake House, Marshall Street, London W1. Pictures by PAUL ARMIGER.

## LAST MINUTE SHOPPERS TURN TO THE POTTERS

SMALL but interesting pieces of ceramic make individual presents for those reckless enough to leave shopping until the last possible moment.

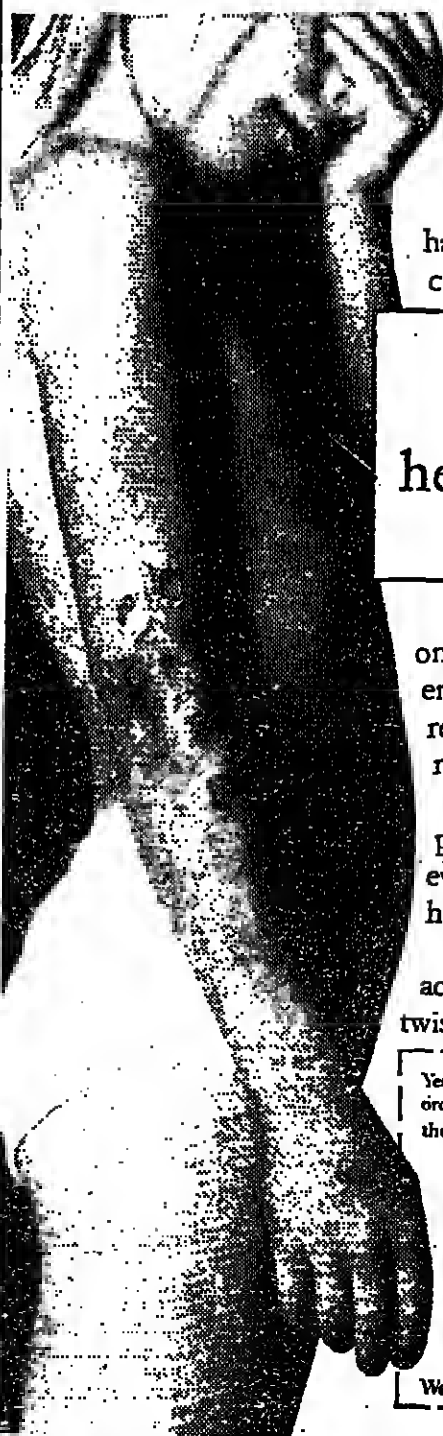
Goetzee's silken evening bags and scarves in geometric Thirties silks are not overly expensive, with bags about £11.

For a special present, David Colwell's black-stained ash reclining chair is a thing of beauty at £190, as are Nic Gray's wooden trains and cars.

The British Crafts Centre and The Craftsman Potters Shop both have Christmas exhibitions, including many likely presents. The first can be taken in on a morning's visit to Covent Garden and includes pieces of furniture, textiles, games and delicately-made evening bags.

Cecil Jordan's cribbage board is, for such a perfectly-proportioned object, inexpensive at £27, and Monique

The Craftsman Potters Shop is full of small, inexpensive items as well as the more expensive large platters and set pieces. Andrew McGarva's painted pottery has a period flavour with its sketchy animals and twirling bits of foliage. In the picture is his perfect portrait of a bird, delicately carried out in greys and blues.



We can't take away the pain this child has been through. But with your help, we'll do our best to make sure it never happens to her again.

For the past hundred years, the NSPCC has been giving aid and comfort to abused children using your donations.

Her father bruised, burnt and broke her arm. Now we want to twist yours.

Last year, over 43,000 children relied on us for help. This year marks our centenary and there's no sign of a significant reduction in the number of children who need help.

Anything you can send will be used to provide help immediately, for example even if you send as little as £5.60 it would help us to protect a child for one week.

When you realise what your money will achieve, you'll find that having your arm twisted doesn't hurt at all.

Yes, I would like to help, and I enclose my cheque or postal order for £..... Access and Visa card holders may debit their accounts.

No. .... BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Signature .....

Name .....

Address .....

Postcode .....

Please send your donation to Dr A. Gilmour, NSPCC, Ref. 48074, 6 Saffron Hill, London EC1N 8RS. We've helped 9 million children in the last 100 years.

## WHAT'S ON SHOW



IF YOU have ever wondered what the term Post-Modernism meant, then the current furniture exhibition at The Boilerhouse (Victoria and Albert Museum, London) might help to explain it.

The organisers don't seem to be too sure themselves, if their explanation is anything to go by: "This exhibition is the first opportunity to make international comparisons of new ideas in furniture, now that designers feel free from constraints and are able once again to explore pattern, colour, symbolism and metaphor."

It demonstrates that Post-Modernism is not one style, but many... The furniture itself, all made from brittle but beautiful

solid melamine, is a revelation.

Unlike other Formicas, ColorCore has solid colour all the way through and its edges are an attractive part of the design, rather than having to be covered up.

Five pieces of folding chair and table, made by the TAG Design Partnership, and John Makepeace's classic cream pastel-layered low table, supported by six scrubbed oak legs, are outstanding among the British exhibits.

Otherwise there is much to admire.

The exhibition runs until January 13. LEFT: hall piece by Mitch Ryerson in high Gothic Revival style is made of ColorCore combined with white oak, maple, iron and glass.

## WHAT'S NEW



## FOCUS ON FROGS...

THE Criterion Tile Shop is a child of the Reject Tile Shop, both of which are in Wandsworth Bridge Road, London SW6.

The Criterion's speciality is first-quality tiles of interesting design and it has a good range of murals and hand-painted tiles, among which is the glum frog pictured.

Hand-painted by Marlborough Ceramics, it is part of a range of landscaped frogs, which cost £6.90 each.



## REASONS FOR A VISIT

THAT THE VISIT TO BRITAIN OF Mr MIKHAIL GORBACHEV has got off to an "excellent start" (No. 10) and the talks between him and Mrs THATCHER and others were "businesslike" (PRAVDA) is probably a good thing for Anglo-Soviet relations, which have had their ups and downs over the past few years and might be all the better for a bit more trade and contact and a lot less spying. The so-called golden boy of Soviet politics appropriately brought with him a seasonal message of peace and goodwill from President CHERNOMIR who is said to have underlined the Kremlin's interest in resuming constructive East-West exchanges, and particularly arms-control negotiations.

There is no reason to doubt these sentiments, however belated they may be, because just at the moment and for all sorts of reasons, including an element of political manoeuvring, there is a new mood in the Kremlin which Mr GORBACHEV has been told to put across as widely and as good-naturedly as he can. Moscow is blowing hot—after blowing cold for some two years or more—and, although this is to be welcomed, the leadership of the West must not fail to grasp that Russia's principal objective in resuming the dialogue in London, and elsewhere, is to stop President REAGAN from pushing ahead with his ambitious Strategic Defence Initiative. To be fair to Mr GORBACHEV he said as much yesterday. What he did not say, of course, was that the Soviet Union's opposition was based on a realistic calculation that it would be left behind in any uncontrollable competition for more and more technically sophisticated space-based weaponry.

It may or may not be pure coincidence that Mr GORBACHEV has popped up in London at the very moment Mrs THATCHER is thinking about what she will say to Mr REAGAN on Saturday. But the Russians are well aware that the great debate on SDI, as well as on the American position at the more mundane Gromyko-Shultz talks in Geneva, is still taking place. Moscow may fondly, and foolishly, believe it can sway Mrs THATCHER's thinking. Certainly it likes to exploit divisions in Nato. Mr GORBACHEV may be looking and sounding like Grandfather Frost (Russia's Santa Claus) here this week but he is no such thing.

## ACADEMIC BARBARISM?

IT IS SURPRISING to find that Sir KEITH JOSEPH's forthcoming Green Paper on higher education is to address itself in part to the question of how to suppress "barbarism" in Britain's universities. By this is meant, apparently, the practice of inviting eminent politicians to address university societies and then preventing them from doing so by organised demonstrations. This is a very deplorable practice; but is it really on the increase? Compared with what used to go on in the late '60s and early '70s (one recalls the famous Garden House riot in Cambridge in February, 1970), academic life is now surely reasonably quiet. It is not long since a couple of rather silly Cambridge proctors publicly deplored the apathy of this generation of undergraduates. With the exception of the North London Polytechnic—a traditional rabble—undergraduates now seem to be chiefly concerned with protesting about their own conditions of life—a natural and relatively harmless preoccupation.

A few conspicuous politicians may get eggs thrown at them, but the majority of lesser visitors, however offensive their opinions, encounter "barbarism" only in the shape of the rather inadequate hospitality they receive and the profound boredom to which they are exposed. The inadequate hospitality must be partly Sir Keith's fault. As for the boredom, it is a more serious matter, and one which may have some bearing on student violence. There were days within living memory when, in the Union societies of the ancient universities, it was forbidden to read speeches. Nowadays, debates in those places consist of a series of arid, ill-prepared essays, read verbatim and having no relation to anything which has been said before or is likely to be said afterwards. Actual physical violence would sometimes seem to be a happier alternative to this sort of persecution. These young people should be taught to argue.

As for sheer discipline, it used to be maintained at Oxford and Cambridge by the kind of draconian punishments which can be applied only by societies which are frankly elitist and whose members are conscious of the privileges they hold and the price at which those privileges are bought. People who physically assault visiting speakers should quite simply be sent down forever.

## A DOUBTFUL RESCUE

WHEN HORSES BOLT it is not Whitehall's way to lock the stable door. It prefers to collect the straw and send it to the analyst. Hence the Chancellor's decision, announced yesterday, to set up an "internal inquiry" into the near-collapse of the Johnson Matthey Bank. That the supervision of this bank's affairs may have left something to be desired is at least a reasonable speculation. But it is depressing that the Banking Act, carried through at the Bank of England's urgent behest only five years ago, should so soon require review.

The substantive question-mark thrown up by the JMB affair, however, is why the Bank of England leapt to catch the pieces in the first place. Only weeks before the Governor had pointedly reminded corporate managements that they should not look to Threadneedle Street to save them and theirs from the consequences of folly. Obviously the Bank cannot "stand aside" if a major participant in the banking system is threatened with collapse, any more than the American authorities could "stand aside" and watch Continental Illinois go under. But JMB was not a Continental Illinois, or anything like one. Only the London bullion market stood exposed to the demise of JMB; and the other participants in that market had the means to protect their flanks if need be.

Clearly the Treasury was no more enchanted by the Bank's knight errantry than were the clearing banks, which were subsequently strong-armed into putting up collateral. Indeed it has been said that the head of the Deputy Governor, who masterminded the rescue operation, might be called for on a charger. This would be somewhat rough justice, when greater men than he have done far more surprising things with public funds and subsequently gone on to greatness. All the same, the Johnson Matthey bale-out does leave a less than satisfactory taste. The Bank of England must always beware that it does not give grounds for the suspicion that there is one law for the City, another for outsiders.

PETER HORDERN, MP, would like to see planning for the future replace the present reliance on short-term financial expediency

## Pulling the public expenditure cracker

entrenched opposition by the other parties to anything suggested by the Government, and, it sadly seems, by some Conservatives too. To these forces are joined the special interests, which, knowing that the Chancellor will remain silent until March, parade their flags and fire their guns, without so much as a toot in return.

So when the Chancellor brings his Budget to the House, any proposal he may announce which affects an interest group is greeted with a withering fire, whereas his own troops, exposed for months to one-sided propaganda, are expected to go over the hill armed with nothing more than the Chancellor's bare statement and their loyalty. And the hope that he has got it right. It is surprising that the Government does as well as it does in these circumstances.

They order things differently in other countries. In America, for example, the Office of Management and Budget surveys the whole field of public expenditure

'The U-turns we now see, on student grants, for example, are the inevitable consequence of cuts done in a hurry'

and suggests where cuts may be made. It also proposes what revenue should be raised and how taxes may be altered to achieve the desired ends.

What a contrast with the way we do things here! We seem to treat Departments as though their activities are quite immutable and never to be compared, one with another, for what they do for the public good. So on the one hand we find that heating allowances for those on supplementary benefit are reduced and, on the other, that large subsidies are still being paid to rich cereal farmers.

Each Department submits its own expenditure to the Treasury and the quality of this expenditure, or its relevance to the principal problems of our time, is never questioned. Each Minister jealously guards his own departmental expenditure, just as the feudal barons once guarded their fiefdoms.

It really will not do. What might be done instead is to ask the "Star Chamber," formed of senior Ministers, to reach agreement between Ministers and the Treasury, to sit permanently with a small staff to review the whole field of expenditure, and its relevance to our present and future demands.

## British turf men under the whip

THE world of Irish racing has been shaken by a xenophobic attack on the membership of the Curragh-based Turf Club by the former Irish Prime Minister Liam Cosgrave.

The club — the ruling body of Irish racing — has been accused by Cosgrave of being dominated by the English in general and British army officers in particular.

"The membership has broadened in recent years, but it still smacks too much of the ancient regime," he alleged.

Last night angry members of the club denied his charges, accused him of Irish parochialism and claimed that the club, which they insist is dominated by Irish racing men, is far more go-ahead than its British counterparts.

Cosgrave's remarks were, in addition, described as the nastiest event in Irish racing since Shergar was kidnapped.

## Poet's corner

DUMFRIESSHIRE councillors will be meeting on a windy and hillside early in the New Year to discuss the siting of a somewhat unwelcome gift — a statue of the area's second most famous poet after Burns, Hugh MacDiarmid.

The monument to the poet, who died in 1978, was commissioned by the Scottish Sculpture Trust from the sculptor Jake Harvey. Now finished, it is standing outside Harvey's backdoor while Dumfries council decides where to put it.

The cantankerous MacDiarmid, born in Langholm, did not get on well with local officials and his widow has accused councillors of dragging their feet over the siting of the statue. The likeliest position is on a hill overlooking the route of the Langholm road — an annual "drag hunt" — which, ironically, provided the only occasion each year when the poet returned to his birthplace.

A couple of Welsh children, visiting their uncle in London at the weekend, were taken to see Father Christmas at a department store in Ealing. While they were surprised to hear him "go home" in a strong West London accent, they were astounded when he confided: "I know Wales well—I spend my summer holidays in Tenby."

## Glorious Gloria

GLORIA FRANKLIN's appointment to head the Defence Ministry's new "think tank" brings the number of female civil servants promoted to the rank of assistant secretary — equivalent to a brigadier — up to five.

The other four who have breached the bastion are Mary Williams, Defence Counsellor for the British delegation at the conventional forces reduction talks at Vienna, Margaret Bibby, Head of Aircraft Finance and

## LONDON DAY BY DAY

Secretariat: Alexa Walker, Head of Civilian Management and Pam Bailey, Director of Aircraft Support procurement.

Franklin's new division of 10 and "half a typist" are already raring to go. Significantly, she and an advance "embryo" team have beaten the gun by starting work in November of next year's Defence White Paper.

## Pushing the boat out

THE 100 naval personnel on HMS Ark Royal at Swan Hunter's shipyard at Tyne and Wear will be particularly busy today handling round the mince pies and pouring drinks for the 2,000 workers who have been building the Navy's newest carrier.

The precedent was set by the ship's stand-by company last year in an event which included the arrival of a maritime Father Christmas and carol singing.

Lieut John Hodder, the ship's first aerial officer, tells me that today's celebrations have been extended to include hot punch and beer as part of a thank you to the workers. It is because the Ark Royal has recently completed a highly successful contractor's sea trials.

## Ace in the holes

NEWS has reached me of a remarkable feat the other weekend at Snanning Golf Club near Reading, where one of the members, Sqdn-Ldr Ewen Gillies, hit two holes-in-one in the same round.

Gillies, a member of the club since 1968, has a handicap of 10 and achieved the two aces in a social game, not a tournament.

The feat is by no means unique according to the Guinness Book of Records, which notes at least 15 occasions on which aces have been achieved by players at consecutive holes, and two cases of three holes-in-one in a round.

## Disposal departure

ONE of the Army's three bomb disposal men injured in Falklands mine clearance operations has just been posted away from the regiment to a staff job.

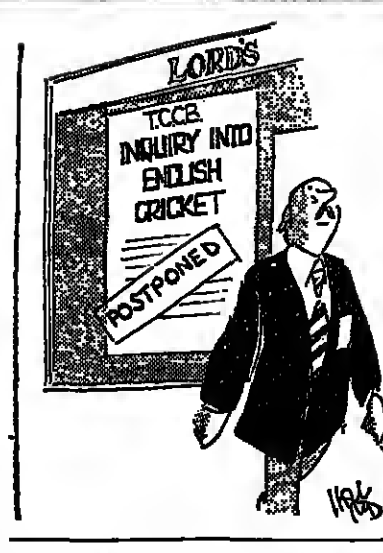
Maj. Geoff Ward, who lost a foot when he stepped on a mine, left the Royal Engineers Bomb Disposal Regiment last week.

The other two members of the regiment wounded in the conflict, Quartermaster Major Steve Hambrook, who also lost a foot, and RSM John Phillips who lost an arm while defusing a bomb on HMS Antelope, for which he was awarded the DSC — are still serving with bomb disposal, but are due for posting next year.

## Account closed

A 775-YEAR-OLD murder mystery has been settled with the payment by the Treasury of £53-08 to Oxford University, according to a journal

## LONDON DAY BY DAY



In 1209 an Oxford undergraduate killed his mistress and decapitated her. The townspeople hanged two innocent students. For this the town was ordered to pay £2 shillings a year compensation in perpetuity to the university. The payment was later made by Eynsham Abbey and, after the dissolution of the monastery, by the Treasury.

The £53-08 is a compound sum accepted by the university to close the account — a sad loss of a link with its violent past.

## Historical romance

THE imaginative editorial staff of the BOOKSELLER trade paper tell me they have come up with the perfect solution to a Christmas competition to sum up the history of the world in 50 words, set by HISTORV TODAY magazine.

"When husky charmer Adam, clasped hauntingly beautiful Eve to his naked breast little did they know that theirs would be a dynasty torn by war, plague, greed and vengeance, a saga writ in blood and tears of a thousand civilisations throbbing with the lust to discover and possess."

## Select party

WILLIAM PROXIMORE has been criticising the American government this week for spending more than 13 million dollars a year on lavish entertainment.

The money was used "to pamper foreign visitors, arms salesmen, government officials and Congressmen." "One thing is constant about this entertainment," the Democratic Senator complained: "the average taxpayer will never be invited."

## Point to watch

A READER just back from a winter break in Gibraltar was intrigued to read in his holiday literature: "The sun usually rises on the eastern side of the rock..."

PETERBOROUGH

## COST-CUTTING THROUGH COAL

SIR—As a fuel technologist I draw your attention to an aspect of the coal strike which has had too little attention. The one sector of the market for coal which is capable of a large expansion is the energy-intensive sector of private industry.

Most of this sector turned to oil years ago but recently natural gas has played an increasing role.

A decrease in fuel costs of the order of 20 to 40 per cent, is attainable by changing back to coal which can now be handled elegantly and simply.

It then becomes worthwhile to change if an annual fuel cost is into six figures. There are hundreds of firms in this category.

The Government has made a grant available, for some time now, to assist in the capital cost but so few firms have taken it up that it has been extended. The grant ceases this month but doubtless it will be extended yet again.

Those in the private sector who did

change are now in trouble not because there is a shortage of coal—there is plenty—but because it is ungraded and presents handling problems. This difficulty started before the strike in that the overtime had seemed to stop maintenance of the all-important grading and preparation of the problem facing private industry.

Thus we compound the problem facing private industry. We burn too expensive a fuel and if we do not, we end with interruptions to production, and of which is costly.

Either a miner's wife shops where it is convenient and where the quality and price represent good value, so too does a business man as regards his purchase and choice of fuel. There is nothing political in the equation. It is a matter of economic necessity.

And so we cripple ourselves. A lower fuel cost would reduce the product price leading to more sales, leading to more jobs.

How silly can we get?

K. BUTTERWORTH  
Leeds.

## Easy way out for TV script editors

SIR—Mr Milton Shulman who writes on Dec. 11 has always had a powerful phrase and an argument to support his long-term abhorrence of the amount of indiscriminate violence introduced into the action of stories presented for the entertainment of viewers by television producers and directors.

Most people with any long-term experience of the business would support him to a great extent because it is no pleasure to anyone that violent action should be paraded, within a dramatic context, as a solution to a personal, political, police or governmental situation.

However, this prevalence of the "easy way out" for script editors and television directors is more a criticism of professional standards than a plea for deep social concern which could, if accepted, lead in the direction of censorship of the worst "scissors-snipping" type which we had under the Hayes Code and our own British Board in its higher-than-thou days.

It is no good bringing American research into this argument because the network schedules in the United States are vastly different from those which have been patiently and diligently constructed over the years by our broadcasting authorities. In the United States there is no such thing as a statutory requirement for a balance of programmes and, consequently, murder follows mayhem the whole day through on all three networks with only an occasional break for laughs.

It is regrettable that most of the violence on our screens seems to originate from the characters in soap operas who are supposed to be upholding either

the law or the security of the state. This is the real disease for it gives youngsters the wrong idea about how democracy is maintained. Exceptions like "Smiley," were enormously popular because there was the minimum presentation of "action man" and the maximum presentation of "thinking man". Similarly, the fiasco of enterprise consistently portrayed in George Cole's "Minder" endeared itself to huge audiences as being more true to life than the cheap successes the criminal seems to enjoy in other series which had best remain unnamed.

The recent short series, "The Bill," was a very welcome and highly entertaining presentation of the police as they really are and as they really have to work compared with the series (which may affect young policemen and their images of themselves) which emphasise riot gear, punch ups, fast cars and never ending danger. "The Bill" would be far more likely to damp down the enthusiasms of the alleged 12 per cent of aggressive teenagers than a series which shows aggressive adult behaviour in the police force.

As the parent of a teenager boy, I have every faith that he and his school friends will come through their current television experience to emerge with out being infected by any orientation towards violence, unlike rather too many television script editors and directors who seem to evade the problem of creating dramatic situations without bangs, bashes and bad behaviour—all of which are very boring in the long run.

FRANK BROWN  
London, S.W.11

## Unnecessary councils

SIR—Councillor Keva Coombes, Leader of Merseyside County Council, (Dec. 7) suggests that the Government is wrong in its conclusion that the metropolitan councils' abolition would save money and increase local accountability.

It may be that the Labour party is committed to what he calls "directly elected strategic authorities for the major areas of the country."

A closer look, however, will show them to be what they are—an unnecessary tier of bureaucratic, expensive, often insensitive government. In Wirral, we carry out major road repairs as agents of the county council. We could organise it ourselves much more easily, at less cost, and probably more efficiently.

In many instances it is time-wasting at the least to have to deal with an authority some way off instead of being able to make the decisions on the spot and, where possible, get on with it.

From what many of us on Merseyside can see, county councils get up to all the most outrageous things, like Merseyside's campaign against "low pay."

It is not that one should object to those sorts of campaigns, indeed they are at times necessary, but when the council itself is a low-pay employer, with over 500 of the council's own workers under the poverty line wage-earning bracket it strikes of the ultimate in hypocrisy.

My own ward is on the boundary of the county of Merseyside and Cheshire, of which we in Wirral used to be a part. Civic pride made us erect a sign welcoming people to Wirral and its fine peninsula.

Recently an application was made by the county council to erect another sign bigger than our own, with the words: "Merseyside County Council... nuclear-free zone."

Is it any wonder the Government wish to abolish an authority which is so blatantly wasteful of other people's money?

At present many of these Left-wing councils are spending as if "demob" happy. May their demise come effortlessly and swiftly.

(Cllr) MATTHEW BANKS  
Metropolitan Borough of Wirral,  
Gayton, Wirral.

## Back to basics

SIR—I agree with Mrs V. Stanhope's recent letter but wonder that many people answer a question nowadays with: "Well, basically..."

(Mrs) VALERIE HADLEY  
Helston, Cornwall.

## Long battle to be fought for animals

SIR—Although there are many aspects of Lord Soper's utterances over the years with which I have never agreed, I am well pleased to be associated with his presidency of the League Against Cruel Sports.

But the matter of our general treatment of animals does not stop there, and few correspondents have done more than touch on the many aspects of this cruel, inhumane and unspeakably barbarous business.

The fact is that the only body with any chance of making its weight felt at government level is the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, a society which, regrettably, would not always seem to have been to do with the championing of the plight of de-beaked battery chickens, blood sport victims, seal pups with blood-caved-in heads, laboratory animals doomed to a living hell, or farm animals reared under conditions reminiscent of medieval torture chambers.

Although, in recent years, there has been a most unfortunate and wholly counter-productive spate of affiliations with dubious political affiliations purporting to link their revolutionary ideas with animal rights, the cause of animal welfare is, fortunately, magnificently shouldered by several legitimate political gain, monetary reward nor for societies headed by worthy people who are motivated by desire neither for

listing in the Queen's Birthday Honour, but solely by the will to do something positive to eradicate man's selfish and often thoughtlessly cruel treatment of God's creatures.

Sadly, however, it is true to say that a salutary change in man's attitude is not about to take place overnight. For those who really care, there is a long battle of attrition to be fought with the greatest of all our enemies—human nature.

For the time being, therefore, let us be content to nibble away at the cesses. As a purely moral issue, no pleasure should be encouraged to derive from killing or maiming a creature.

Let us encourage Lord Soper's League Against Cruel Sports to outlaw fox-hunting, deer hunting, hare coursing and all other forms of killing in the name of sport.

Lord Soper is right. Such a change in human attitudes could assist in which is sweeping the land. Let us, therefore, begin the process by loving our toddlers with understanding, all living creatures, so that future societies may live in peace and harmony with nature and fellow humans.

W. T. C. ANGUS  
Campbelltown, Argyllshire



# Bishop of Durham's wife tells of death threats

By GERALD BARTLETT

DEATH threats have been made against the Bishop of Durham, the Rt. Rev. David Jenkins, who since his consecration in July has expressed doubts about the Virgin birth and criticised the Government, Mr Ian MacGregor, Coal Board chairman, and Mr Arthur Scargill, miners' union president.

The threats are disclosed today by the Bishop's wife, Mrs Mollie Jenkins, in an interview in WOMAN magazine. She says that there have also been threats of attacks on their two daughters, Deborah, 25, and Rebecca, 22—and much "scurrilous" mail from southern England.

It is difficult to be the wife of a bishop who says what he thinks, says Mrs Jenkins. You have to make sure, she says, that the front door of your "palace" is locked at all times, and before children open letters "they have to feel them to make sure there are no explosives inside."

## 'Very thresome time'

Mrs Jenkins, the daughter of a journalist, said: "We have had a very thresome time with the gutter press who have actually lied in headlines and misled a whole lot of people who don't know any better."

"There have been threats of attacks on our daughters and death threats to my husband. Nearly all the scurrilous mail we have had has come from the south of England—from those who don't realise what enormous suffering there is in this part of the world."

Mrs Jenkins says she was "absolutely amazed at what happened" after the new Bishop (60 next month) was reported as calling Mr Ian MacGregor "an elderly imported American" who should step down from his job. The bishop had also suggested that the Government was indifferent to poverty, and described Scargill as a "Stalinist Marxist ready to organise intimidation."

He had aroused controversy already by his questioning of Church doctrines on the Virgin birth. Then there was a further outcry when he was quoted as saying the resurrection was a "conjuring trick with bones."

"Quite ridiculous," explains his wife, "is that the resurrection was far more than a conjuring trick with bones," but the credulous felt their forebodings were justified when lightning destroyed part of the Minister.

"My daughter's theory is that the Almighty would not have missed by a great deal, so it was certainly the Devil's stamp of rage that his machinations had come to nought," said Mrs Jenkins.

The Bishop of Durham was consecrated in York. Minister on July 6 with an accusation of blasphemy from a clergyman echoing around the cathedral. Three days later a bolt of lightning devastated York Minister's south transept causing damage estimated at more than £1 million.

Suggestions of "divine intervention" were dismissed as ridiculous by the Archbishop of York, Dr Habgood.

"But it is getting quite ridiculous. My husband talks sense usually and people don't credit him with it. There are screaming headlines whenever he preaches a sermon—the Daily Mail and the Sun start all the trouble, the majority of newspapers that like to scream."

## Shakespeare too racy for schools publisher

By TONY ALLEN-MILLS in New York

SHAKESPEARE has proved too racy for an Illinois publisher of anthologies for schools. All references in his plays to amorous rites and maidens' legs have been excised.

To the dismay of English teachers in Richmond, Virginia, new Shakespeare texts of "Hamlet" and "Romeo and Juliet" have begun to circulate with any passages that could be construed as suggestive missing.

The publisher, Scott, Foresman and Co. of Glenview, Illinois, had adopted the practice common in America of abridging the plays for high-school literature courses.

But the Virginia teachers noticed that of the 100 lines and missing from "Hamlet" and "Romeo and Juliet."

"There is no doubt that cuts were made because of some suggestive overtones," said Dr Kenneth Bradford, of Virginia's Board of Education. In "Hamlet" for example, the Prince of Denmark, in dialogue with Ophelia, said: "I shall lie in your lap and later, 'That's a fair thought to lie between maidens'."

Also missing from the Scott, Foresman version is Hamlet's reference to his mother's "wild and whoring" after the death of his father.

Let the blotted king tempt you again to bed. Pluck down your coverlet. And let him, for a pair of reechy kisses,

Or padding in your neck with his downy fingers.

From Act 3 Scene Four, of "Romeo and Juliet" the sentence "Prick love for prickings, and you heat love down" was deleted because "some words mean different things to high school kids," said Dr Bradford.

And a brutal act occurs in Juliet's heartfelt yearning in the Capulet orchard scene: "Spread thy close-curtain, love-man, perform night."

Spread thy close-curtain, love-man, perform night. That Romeo's eyes may wink, and Romeo Leap to these eyes untalked of and unseen.

Lovers can see to do their own bidding by their own Boudoirs. . . .

Yesterday Miss Margaret Murston, of Virginia's Education Board, said the cuts were "unbelievably horrible." She added: "Poetic licence is not the publisher's right."

"There's still a puritan influence at work here," said Dr Bradford. "And it's true to say that the better you understand Shakespeare's work the sicker some of his references become."

But he believes that if Shakespeare is to be taught in schools, it should be taught in the original and not in a publisher's "cleaned-up" version.

Explaining the publishers' thinking behind the cuts, Miss Murston said it had been felt there was some Shakespeare language teachers might have felt uncomfortable in discussing with schoolchildren.

"It's difficult talking about maidens' heads to 14-year-olds," she said.

## HUSBANDS' JOBS 'KILL WIVES'

By DAVID FLETCHER

Ralph Services Correspondent

WIVES are likely to die from the diseases associated with their husband's work even though they do not share his occupation, Dr Ben Fletcher, senior lecturer in psychology at Hatfield Polytechnic, said yesterday.

He told a meeting of the British Psychological Society in London that the wives of coal miners who never went down a dust-filled mine were still more likely to die of a lung disease than the average person—just like their husbands.

"In a wide variety of other occupations both partners are vulnerable to the same disease," he said. "Police officers and their wives, for example, are more likely than normal to die of circulatory diseases."

"Doctors and women married to them are more likely to die from accidents, poisonings and violence. Soldiers and their wives are more likely to die of cancer."

## Analysed 1m cases

His findings are based on an analysis of the deaths of over a million people of working age. He found a close connection between the causes of death of women classified by their husband's occupation, and the causes of death of men in the same occupations.

He said: "Such a theory—the psychological transmission of occupational risks between marital partners—obviously imprecise and based on necessarily crude statistical analysis."

"The findings, however, are from a very large sample of deaths and based on a wide range of occupations."

## 'THEATRE CHAIN'

BUYS £1 m

HIPPODROME

By Our Arts Staff

APOLLO Leisure, which has been under the chairmanship of Mr Robert Sangster, the pools heir since September, has bought the 1975-seat Bristol Hippodrome, a major touring venue, from Stoll-Moscow Theatres for just under £1 million.

The Hippodrome, the last important work by Frank Macham, the famous theatre architect, which was finished in 1912, joins Apollo's chain of theatres in Manchester, Glasgow, Coventry, Oxford and London.

After an extended run for Christmas, pantomime "Aladdin," the Hippodrome will be host in March to the National Theatre production of the American musical, "Guys and Dolls."

## B R CHRISTMAS

TREAT FOR

CARDHOLDERS

By Our Transport Correspondent

Discounts worth £270 million are being offered with 300,000 Christmas cards being sent out by British Rail.

They are going to holders of Senior Citizen and Family Railcards. Each offers discounts of up to £300 at theatres, restaurants, hotels and tourist spots.

Mr Frank Lovelock, railway manager, said the aim was to increase the use of the cards over Christmas and the New Year. B.R. wants to encourage people to travel to London, Cardiff, Glasgow and Edinburgh.

## SIMENON HOME

The Belgian author Georges Simenon of the "Inspector Maigret" detective novels, was released from hospital in Lausanne yesterday, ten days after an operation to remove a sinus tumour.—A.P.

## Tougher code for erring barristers

By TERENCE SHAW

A MORE flexible and comprehensive disciplinary system for dealing with complaints against barristers was approved by members of the Bar at an extraordinary general meeting in the Middle Temple last night.

Under the changes a disciplinary tribunal of the Senate of the Inns of Court and the Bar will have new powers to find a barrister guilty of a breach of professional standards when it decides that professional misconduct has not been proved.

At present a tribunal can only adjudge on a charge of professional misconduct and can then only find the misconduct proved or not proved.

The tribunal will also have new powers to hear complaints of breach of professional standards when the facts of a complaint are in dispute.

## More serious

Until now, alleged breaches of professional standards have been dealt with by the Bar's professional conduct committee which has had no proper machinery for resolving disputed cases where a barrister has challenged factual allegations made against him by a complainant.

Where a disciplinary tribunal finds a breach of professional standards proved, its power



Looking forward to Christmas—Mrs Sylvia Duxbury, her sight restored, rejoicing with her husband Tom.

## Grandmother gains her sight after 62 years

A 62-YEAR-OLD grandmother registered blind since childhood has regained her sight in an operation to implant artificial lenses in the back of both eyes.

Mrs Sylvia Duxbury, who has two daughter and six grandchildren, has a rare albinism condition involving lack of pigment.

Yesterday she described her joy at being able to see her husband Tom, 65, properly for the first time since they married 42 years ago.

"He was even better looking than I thought," she said. "This Christmas is going to be so special because I can see all the family clearly, read all the cards and look at the decorations—something I've never been able to do before."

## Total albinism

Mr Yous Khan her surgeon carried out the lens replacement operation at St Woolos Hospital, Newport, South Wales, but warned Mrs Duxbury there was no guarantee it would work because of her rare condition.

He said: "I doubt if I will ever perform another operation like this again in my life."

"Mrs Duxbury is a total albinism when light enters her eyes there is no black box or camera effect. In all such cases, vision is quite defective."

"I have never known anyone to see for the first time after such a long period of blindness. I expected her to be able to see something, but it's been more of a success since she can see properly."

At her home in Sickerick Close, Newport, Mrs Duxbury said: "It's wonderful to be able to see. The first person I saw when I opened my eyes was Mr Khan, and I thought what a very handsome man he was."

"Ever since I was a child I have been registered blind. I attended a blind school, and when I left I worked in a workshop for the blind, sweeping the floor."

Every day things like catching a bus were a major exercise for Mrs Duxbury until her operation.

"I had to rely on other people at the time to make out what was going on," she said. "Now I can run down the road after the bus like everyone else."

"It's exciting being able to do all the little things that sighted people take for granted. I can even see how the bacon is doing under the grill."

Legal Correspondent

will be the same as that of the professional conduct committee and limited to admonishing the barrister.

If a barrister is found guilty of the more serious offence of professional misconduct he can be recommended to be disbarred or suspended from practice.

The meeting, which was attended by about 150 barristers, was called primarily to discuss machinery to deal with the late payment of barristers' fees by solicitors.

Although the Bar Council is satisfied that arrangements with the Law Society for chasing up late paying solicitors are working reasonably well, there was renewed pressure for the compulsory blacklisting of solicitors who are late payers.

It was led by Mr Robin de Wilde, a barrister, who two years ago was a prime mover of the blacklisting scheme which was then defeated by the Bar in a ballot.

Mr de Wilde has claimed that the Law Society's disciplinary machinery is still not tough enough on solicitors who delay unreasonably in paying and that only the mandatory reporting of defaulting solicitors will overcome the reluctance of some chambers to report defaulters.

## 'TERRIFIED' BEST GOES TO JAIL

By GUY RAIS

GEORGE BEST, 39, the former footballer, went to jail yesterday after his appeal against a 12-week sentence imposed on him for a drink-driving charge was dismissed at Southwark Crown Court.

Judge GRAHAM BUTLER, QC, told Best that the sentence was "neither excessive nor unduly severe." It was right that the sentence should be confirmed.

Best, of Oakley Street, Chelsea, clutched the rail of the dock but showed no sign of emotion as he was escorted from the court room by a prison officer.

Earlier he heard his counsel, Mr Philip Havers, tell the judge that he was "terrified" at the prospect of going to prison.

Best, a former Manchester United and Northern Ireland player, had been sentenced to Bow Street earlier this month for driving in central London with more than three times the permitted level of alcohol in his blood, and assaulting a policeman.

## Policeman hit

He had been freed on bail by the High Court pending the hearing of the appeal. Mr VICTOR TEMPLE, for the Crown, told the court yesterday that Best failed to appear after being stopped and when police went to his flat to find out where he was, he hit a policeman after being put in a police van.

Mr Havers, in his mitigation plea, said Best had been afflicted by alcoholism for many years. "He is now extremely penitent for what has happened."

"He has been publicly humiliated and disgraced, perhaps more publicly than anyone else by reason of his life in the public eye for many years."

The judge, confirming the sentence, said he had taken into account the mitigating factors, but had reached the conclusion that the sentence imposed was correct.

It had to be remembered that Best drove in central London with more than three times the permitted level of alcohol in his blood. Of the assault the judge said: "It must be clearly understood that those who assault police officers in the execution of their duty must expect an immediate custodial sentence."

The judge also confirmed Best's disqualification from driving for five years.

## REDS AND LEADS

FILL PM'S POST

By Our Political Staff

Mrs Thatcher said yesterday that during the past 12 months she had received pamphlets postbags of 30,000 letters or more on two other issues besides student grants.

She told Mr Andrew Bennett, Labour MP for Denton and Reddish, that they were on the "Save the Swans" campaign against the use of lead by anglers and a Soviet postcard campaign about disarmament.

## Multi-language map is vetoed by education study

By JOHN IZBICKI Education Correspondent

A MAP of Britain, excluding Northern Ireland, showing the diversity of foreign languages and dialects spoken, has been vetoed by the Swann Committee investigating the education of ethnic minorities.

The map was suggested as an annex to the Swann Report's chapter seven which deals with language education.

It shows that Punjabi is spoken as far south as Reading and as far north as Stornoway.

The committee member who suggested its inclusion, Dr Farrukh Hashmi, consultant psychiatrist at All Saints' Hospital, Birmingham, was outvoted because other members felt that the map would play into the hands of racists.

A slightly modified version of a map produced for the Children's Language Project at the University of London Institute of Education, it highlights scores of languages but does not detail the number of people speaking them.

## Rich mixture

In some cases, only one or two families might be involved and Swann committee members were worried that it could be misinterpreted.

It shows that in Glasgow the languages spoken include Cantonese, Gaelic, Italian, Polish, Punjabi and Urdu, while in Aberdeen it is Arabic, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Japanese and Norwegian.

Bradford and Leeds show Bengali, Cantonese, German, Gujarati, Hindi, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, Punjabi, Pushtu, Serbo-Croat, Spanish, Ukrainian, Urdu and, somewhat surprisingly, "Yorkshire."

Manchester and Liverpool are labelled Bengali, Cantonese, Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi, as well as "Scouse" and Welsh, while London, which is said to abound with more than 120 languages lists only Arabic, Bengali, Cantonese, French, Greek, Gujarati, Hindi, Italian, Jamaican, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Pushtu, Spanish, Turkish, Urdu, Yoruba and . . . Cockney.

But the report, still in draft form despite several "final" meetings, says that there was a great diversity of other languages being spoken among British families. At Bradford, 14,201 pupils spoke some 64 languages other than English at home and at Haringey, a London borough, 7,407 pupils spoke 67 other languages.

"The English language is a central unifying factor in 'being British' and is the key to participation on equal terms in society," the report states. A re-drafted Chapter Three, social class."

When comparing GCE Ordinary paper results at fifth form level, it was found that 32 per cent of middle-class Asian boys and girls obtained five or more passes compared with only 51 per cent of whites.

What has embarrassed some of the West Indian members of the committee (and the West Indian Press has been critical of those members) is that West Indian children "lag behind (levels) of all other pupils, even when controlled for social class."

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15 The Daily Telegraph, Tuesday, December 16, 1981







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## THE QUESTOR COLUMN

## Dented cans from Newcastle

TAKE canned beer away from Scottish and Newcastle Breweries and there's not much left, which is why a warning note about canned beer trading caused a mild panic in the market. Scottish and Newcastle's interim profits at £37.5 million against £31.6 million before tax would, on their own, have provided a bit of pre-Christmas cheer to a cynical stock market.

But the company spoiled the effect by saying: "Trading in canned beer is continuing rather less favourably with 1985's exceptional volume growth." Investors weaned on McEwan's Export and Wm. Younger's Tartan Special took fright.

In fact, there is no reason to be especially nervous. The group now feels that its market position is sufficiently strong for it to turn away business where the margins are inadequate and brewing capacity is being matched to profitable sales potential rather than sales at any price.

In taking that attitude Scottish and Newcastle is no different from Bass, but retains the advantage of having a market leader, Keir, aimed specifically at the cheaper end of the market.

Draught lager sales were ahead enough to leave retail beer volumes all-square at the half way, with brewing profits up because of rationalisation benefits now coming through. Unlike most of its brethren, the beverage, there's still a lot of cost improvement to come.

At the same time hotels are strong as the industry enjoys boom conditions, especially in London. The recently agreed hotel sales will add to profits as interest earnings on the proceeds outweigh operating profits.

All that points to full year profits of around £63 million, a prospective price-earnings ratio of nine times, backed by a 6.3 p.c. potential yield at 136p.



The Scottish and Newcastle chairman, David Nickson — "confident outlook."

are not bargain basement rallies, especially as the group needs to find a strong growth point if it is to avoid moving from the profits plateau of the late seventies to another, but higher, one in the mid-eighties.

Until an acquisition strategy emerges the shares are for traders only.

**Brighter hopes for Whessoe**

WHESSEO may be building from a low base but second half profit of £3 million compared with just £1.1 million in the first six months should provide cheer for long term followers.

It represents the first genuine sign of recovery the company has seen for some time. Full year profits to September 29 have still finished substantially lower at £4.14 million against £6.88 million but the rate of downturn has eased from 62 p.c. at half-time to 40 p.c. at the year end.

This may seem like a case of being grateful for small mercies but the whole engineering sector has been wrung through the mangle over the last few years and Whessoe is emerging from that period in better shape than most.

This is thanks largely to its cash holdings. These provided the group with income during the worst days of the depression and are now financing new orders which are coming through. But they are far less favourable terms than Whessoe enjoyed at the start of the eighties as it began work on the Heysham and Torness power stations.

That has substantially depleted liquid resources which have been more than halved to £5 million net over the last year, and they will reduce further in the current year, particularly if the first Sizewell B power station orders come through to push up working capital requirements.

Lower interest receivable this year is therefore inevitable, but the group should see improvement elsewhere particularly on the pipework operations where the Tasmaking Canadian subsidiary has been disposed of.

That alone should add back around 900,000 to the pre-tax level making £5 million before tax a minimum profits expectation for the current year.

The yield of 9 p.c. at 88p now looks safer than for many long time and the shares on a prospective earnings multiple of 5.4 will gain in attraction—just as long as the Qatar fire claims remain a distant memory.

**Seize Siebe opportunities**

ACQUISITION benefits were always expected to make a strong impact on Siebe's interim report for the period to

end-September, but a half-time pre-tax profit of £8.97 million against £5.9 million took most by surprise. The share price response was 21p up at 475p, and with an encouraging second half in sight the shares must still be on a buyer's list.

Tecalemit Group is for a full six months, Siebe North of the United States and Canada has done well and the Southern African interests have advanced. At home Siebe performed well as far as consumer goods were concerned, but in line with others saw slack conditions within the capital goods sector.

The overseas contribution to profits now runs at 70 p.c. and is likely to remain high while the American economy stays strong.

Last year's acquisitions brought with them their element of debt to give Siebe a gearing ratio of 84.5 p.c. at last balance sheet. This is, however, largely a temporary situation and by balance sheet date will be in lower ground.

Earlier Siebe looked on for £14.5 million pre-tax this year after £11.3 million in the year ended March, but following latest interim results the group would merely have to mark time in the second half to reach that level. Siebe is not merely going to stand still this second half, and pre-tax profits in the £16 million region must now be the target.

Given that acquisitions have been digested and are making their contribution, further deals to broaden the base should be expected.

Siebe is now released from earlier dividend restraints imposed by the Take-over Panel, and the interim payment rises to 15 p.c. A further final dividend should follow.

The shares are tightly held, but on a prospective price-earnings ratio of 10.5 buying opportunities should be taken.

## Wolff in £24m cash injection

RUDOLF WOLFF, the international metal trading and commodities group, is increasing its capital base from £18 million to £42 million to help fund its expanding scale of operations. The £24 million injection comes from its parent Noranda, the Canadian-based resources group, and will be applied principally to Rudolf Wolff's financial, bullion and energy sectors.

Wolff was founded in 1866, is a member of the London Metal Exchange and has a worldwide network of offices. Its board believes a higher asset backing, which will be the equivalent of £50 million, is needed for a group which has diversified from general commodity broking into financial futures, bullion dealing and energy futures.

**Belhaven Brewery**

THE improvement at Belhaven Brewery Group, which was evident in 1983-84 when it made profits from £158,000 to £405,000, has continued for it has more than doubled first half pre-tax profits from £266,000 to £617,000 on turnover £280,000 ahead at 26-18m.

The group is resuming dividends with a 0.35p interim on January 15 from earnings of 2.42p (1.47p). At the trading level the brewery operations made £293,000, 122,500 more than the hotels and holiday village activities contributed £278,000. The board says the second half has started well.

**Great Western**

GREAT Western Resources, the American oil and gas exploration company which obtained a full listing in August via an offer for sale of 5m shares at 180p a share, has weighed in with full year pre-tax profits of £307,000 (£105,000) as against £78,000 for the comparable period.

As foreshadowed, there is no dividend but in view of the successful drilling programme the board confirms their intention to pay an interim dividend for the current year. Six wells have been drilled in the DJ Basin, Wyoming, for the first time in six months, the cost of wholesale money to Britain remained very steady, with the key three-month rate holding at 9 p.c.

## May &amp; Hassell

A COMBINATION of exchange rate fluctuations, the spin-off from the miners' strike and the omnipresent excess of supply over demand has eroded margins at May & Hassell in the half-year.

Pre-tax profits have slipped from £1.2m to £1.1m, but the interim dividend is being lifted from an adjusted 1.2p to 1.6p on Feb. 4.

Management accounts for the second half, meanwhile, show that most of the group is still trading profitably, though with reduced margins. Chairman Peter Atley describes the second half as "a busy" but anticipates a reasonable full-year result.

**Redearn National**

MEASURES taken to reorganise the glass container business have shown through. Redearn National Glass in the year ended Sept. the group has turned round losses of £2.45m to profits of £1.10m at the operating level.

Interest charges of £1.22m against £1.2m, however, will leave losses, albeit much reduced at £225,000 compared with £5.1m in 1983-84. A similar 1p nominal dividend is payable to maintain trustee status.

The more favourable trend in profitability, meanwhile, has continued in the early part of the new financial year, and the board looks forward with confidence to 1985.

**Pyke Holdings**

PYKE Holdings has kept pre-tax profits moving forward during 1983-84 in line with sales for an 88 p.c. advance in turnover to £54.9m has been all but matched by an 85 p.c. increase in profits from £630,000 to £1.1m.

The group, Britain's leading supplier of meat to the catering industry, says this progress stemmed from organic growth made possible by earlier investment in new production facilities, and the Peter Fairfax acquisition.

Turnover in the first two months this year has continued to show an increase; there have been two further acquisitions of catering butchers; and the group is exploring more opportunities to expand its regional distribution.

The final is 3p making 5p 15-3p from earnings of 16-6p (11-9p).

**Speyhawk**

SPEYHAWK, the commercial and industrial property group, benefited from the improving market in the latter part of the year ended September. At the interim mark pre-tax profits showed a £62,000 dip to £612,000, but over the full year Speyhawk lifted its

earnings from £5.15m to a peak of £5.77m.

It says the better conditions in the closing months enabled it to maintain momentum at profitably higher margins of 10 p.c. on its completed schemes, 11 of the New Year with a number of buildings completed.

The final is 6.4p making 8.4p (7.7p) from earnings of 21p (18.2p).

**Williamson Tea**

THE substantial increase in full-year pre-tax profits forecast by Williamson Tea Holdings to July has materialised, with the figure ahead from £1.87m to £2.6m on turnover of £11.5m against £10.8m.

Earnings came out at 108-88p, compared with 71-63p, and the dividend is going up from 15p to 20p on Jan. 29.

The opportunity given by the current relative prosperity has enabled the company to accelerate tea extensions, carry out further factory modernisations and other improvements.

**Godfrey Davis**

OPENING half pre-tax profits of Godfrey Davis Holdings slipped from £1.6m to £1.68m, struck after interim charges of £100,000 (£18,000). Given reasonable stability in economic conditions, however, the group expects full-year profits to exceed the previous year's record of £2.5m.

The interim dividend, meanwhile, is held at 1.5p, payable Jan. 10.

**IN BRIEF**

**John Lee:** First half pre-tax profit £66,000 (£64,000). Turnover £1.68m (£1.38m). Eps 3.64p (£3.3p). Interim dividend again 9 p.c., payable January 21. Board hopeful raw material prices have now peaked.

**Elisa Tinsley:** First half pre-tax profit £22,000 (£28,000). Turnover £1.96m (£2.62m). Eps 2.64p (£3.80p). Interim dividend 10 p.c. payable February 1. Board anticipates 1.80p final making the 2.78p total forecast shadowed with July USM placing.

**Harvelock Europe:** First half pre-tax profit £291,000 (£210,000). Turnover £4.17m (£3.25m). Eps 2.65p (£2.10p). Interim dividend 10 p.c. payable January 10. Second half opened with substantially higher levels of orders on hand.

**BIDS AND DEALS**

**BPCC starts**

**Waddington sale**

BRITISH Printing and Communications Corporation has started disposing of its 25 p.c.

stake in John Waddington following the second failure of an attempt to buy the games-toy packaging company.

Yesterday BPCC and another company controlled by Robert Marwood Persimmon Inc. between them sold 2.8 m. of the equity on the market.

The plan is to sell off the while holding over a period long enough not to depress the share price, which is already well down on the 500p of the last bid. Yesterday the Waddington shares were unchanged at 455p.

**Harold Perry**

HAROLD Perry Motors has sold its leasing business, Perrylease, immediate payment of £50,000. Prior to the disposal the retained reserves of Perrylease, amounting to £728,000, were distributed to Perry via a dividend.

This will result in the virtual elimination of group borrowings, which currently stand at around £7.75m. In 1983 Perrylease made £250,000 pre-tax.

Perry will continue to be entitled to receive the earnings arising from the leased asset portfolio existing at the date of sale.

**Zygal Dynamics**

ZYGAL Dynamics' swing from pre-tax profits of £181,000 to a £182,000 loss in the half-year, which currently stand at around £7.75m. In 1983 Perrylease made £250,000 pre-tax.

The board expects the trading position to be considerably improved by the year-end. There is no dividend issued.

**Reed International**

REED International has paid \$60m cash for W. F. Taylor, a California-based supplier of flooring adhesives and accessories throughout the United States. Pre-tax profits last year were \$1.5m on sales of \$15.7m. The acquisition is part of Reed's policy of expansion in paint and DIY in America.

**BET**

BRITISH Electric Traction's subsidiary United Transport has acquired 30 p.c. stake in a small bus company in Hongkong for £500,000, including an initial loan, and has an option to take a controlling share in due course.

## Franchising grows at 20-30 pc a year

By DAVID GREEN

FRANCHISING, having overcome the dubious reputation it gained in the early seventies from pyramid selling, is now enjoying a dramatic growth rate, helped in part by the rising unemployment figures.

This is one of the conclusions drawn by a Key Note survey on a sector which is at present growing at between 20 and 30 p.c. a year.

Many franchise companies established in the seventies have now become household names. More recently, major national companies have been attracted to franchising as a means of self-financing diversification.

And as the recession has forced redundancies at all levels of industry franchising has become a vehicle for gaining re-employment. This has facilitated the recent growth in domestic, low skill, high labour services.

All these factors, says the survey, are combining to give franchising its highest level of exposure—and respectability.

Franchising now has a considerable, growing base of established and capable franchise companies and businesses, policed by a strong and respected trade association and financed by the four main clearing banks' small business units.

The report estimates the number of companies now operating at 90, with 6,500 outlets and a turnover of around

£730 million, an increase of 20 p.c.

Next year it projects a growth to turnover of 30 p.c. to £940 million through 125 companies with 8,000 outlets, providing employment for around 60,000 people.

The report divides franchising into four sectors: fast food, retail goods and services, computers and domestic and commercial services.

Fast food, the best known example of franchising, is now a crowded sector. There are fewer new companies entering the fray, though the American McDonalds group, with around 150 outlets in Britain, is likely to offer franchised outlets next year for the first time.

The fastest growing area of franchising is those companies providing commercial services. Among them is A.D.S. (Accountancy Information Development Services), which offers computer-based accountancy services to small businesses employing fewer than 100 people.

This company, adds the report, is providing a service to the growing number of small businesses while being one of the first to franchise a professional service.

Report available from Key Note Publications, 28-42, Banner Street, London, E.C.1, price £75 post paid.

## MONEY &amp; EXCHANGES

THE sterling index slipped from 73.2 to 73.1, and the pound fell from \$1.9520 to \$1.9515 in very quiet markets yesterday.

The pound also shaded in terms of other major currencies such as the mark and the franc. With the pound showing relative stability and the London

money markets enjoying surplus liquidity for the first time in six months, the cost of wholesale money to Britain remained very steady, with the key three-month rate holding at 9 p.c.

## THE POUND ABROAD

	17-12-84	17c. close
America	25.88-89	25.84-85
Canada	1.712-1.713	1.712-1.713
France	16.18-16.20	16.22-16.23
Germany	1.362-1.363	1.362-1.363
Italy	2.042-2.043	2.042-2.043
Japan	1.770-1.771	1.770-1.771
Netherlands	2.042-2.043	2.042-2.043
Spain	167.50-167.51	167.50-167.51
Sweden	13.12-13.13	13.12-13.13
Switzerland	1.512-1.513	1.512-1.513
U.K. (sterling)	1.000-1.000	1.000-1.000

## OTHER MARKET RATES

	17-12-84	17c. close
Australia	1.48-1.49	1.48-1.49
Canada	1.712-1.713	1.712-1.713
France	16.18-16.20	16.22-16.23
Germany	1.362-1.363	1.362-1.363
Italy	2.042-2.043	2.042-2.043
Japan	1.770-1.771	1.770-1.771
Netherlands	2.042-2.043	2.042-2.043
Spain	167.50-167.51	167.50-167.51
Sweden	13.12-13.13	13.12-13.13
Switzerland	1.512-1.513	1.512-1.513
U.K. (sterling)	1.000-1.000	1.000-1.000

## DOLLAR RATES

	17-12-84	17c. close
Australia	1.48-1.49	1.48-1.49
Canada	1.712-1.713	1.712-1.713
France	16.18-16.20	16.22-16.23
Germany	1.362-1.363	1.362-1.363
Italy	2.042-2.043	2.042-2.043
Japan	1.770-1.771	1.770-1.771
Netherlands	2.042-2.043	2.042-2.043
Spain	167.50-167.51	167.50-167.51
Sweden	13.12-13.13	13.12-13.13
Switzerland	1.512-1.513	1.512-1.513
U.K. (sterling)	1.000-1.000	1.000-1.000

## EUROCURRENCIES

	17-12-84	17c. close
Australia	1.48-1.49	1.48-1.49
Canada	1.712-1.713	1.712-1.713
France	16.18-16.20	16.22-16.23
Germany	1.362-1.363	1.362-1.363
Italy	2.042-2.043	2.042-2.043
Japan	1.770-1.771	1.770-1.771
Netherlands	2.042-2.043	2.042-2.043
Spain	167.50-167.51	167.50-167.51
Sweden	13.12-13.13	13.12-13.13
Switzerland	1.512-1.513	1.512-1.513
U.K. (sterling)	1.000-1.000	1.000-1.000

## GOLD PRICE

	17-12-84	17c. close
Australia	1.48-1.49	1.48-1.49
Canada	1.712-1.713	1.712-1.713
France	16.18-16.20	16.22-16.23
Germany	1.362-1.363	1.362-1.363
Italy	2.042-2.043	2.042-2.043
Japan	1.770-1.771	1.770-1.771
Netherlands	2.042-2.043	2.042-2.043
Spain	167.50-167.51	167.50-167.51
Sweden	13.12-13.13	13.12-13.13
Switzerland	1.512-1.513	1.512-1.513
U.K. (sterling)	1.000-1.000	1.000-1.000

## KRUGERERANDS

	17-12-84	17c. close
Australia	1.48-1.49	1.48-1.49
Canada	1.712-1.713	1.712-1.713
France	16.18-16.20	16.22-16.23
Germany	1.362-1.363	1.362-1.363
Italy	2.042-2.043	2.042-2.043
Japan	1.770-1.771	1.770-1.771
Netherlands	2.042-2.043	2.042-2.043
Spain	167.50-167.51	167.50-167.51
Sweden	13.12-13.13	13.12-13.13
Switzerland	1.512-1.513	1.512-1.513
U.K. (sterling)	1.000-1.000	1.000-1.000

## PLATINUM NOBLES

	17-12-84	17c. close
Australia	1.48-1.49	1.48-1.49
Canada	1.712-1.713	1.712-1.713
France	16.18-16.20	16.22-16.23
Germany	1.362-1.363	1.362-1.363
Italy	2.042-2.043	2.042-2.043
Japan	1.770-1.771	1.770-1.771
Netherlands	2.042-2.043	2.042-2.043
Spain	167.50-167.51	167.50-167.51
Sweden	13.12-13.13	13.12-13.13
Switzerland	1.512-1.513	1.512-1.513
U.K. (sterling)	1.000-1.000	1.000-1.000

## NEW SOVEREIGNS

	17-12-84	17c. close
Australia	1.48-1.49	1.48-1.49
Canada	1.712-1.713	1.712-1.713
France	16.18-16.20	16.22-16.23
Germany	1.362-1.363	1.362-1.363
Italy	2.042-2.043	2.042-2.043
Japan	1.770-1.771	1.770-1.771
Netherlands	2.042-2.043	2.042-2.043
Spain	167.50-167.51	167.50-167.51
Sweden	13.12-13.13	13.12-13.13
Switzerland	1.512-1.513	1.512-1.513
U.K. (sterling)	1.000-1.000	1.000-1.000

## MONEY MARKET RATES

6 months 9 1/2 - 9 3/4	6 months 8 1/2 - 8 3/4
ANAL AUTHORITY DEPOSIT:	







# JONES OFFERS ENGLAND LITTLE HOPE

By JOHN MASON

ENGLAND, the bulk of whose leading forwards were training at Stourbridge last night in preparation for the international against Rumania at Twickenham on Jan. 5, will need time to compete on equal terms with other championship contenders, it was suggested in London yesterday.

"England must learn to give their game an element of risk and people must be sympathetic if a player fails in taking a chance. But England—and Wales—must not allow gloom and doom to envelop them. That sort of attitude is corrosive."

I offer no prizes to anyone guessing the identity of the speaker. Alan Jones, Australia's coach, was taking his leave of these islands as he bristled forthrightly on fare-well day as he was at the moment of arrival 10 weeks ago.

Asked to assess how he thought the Five Nations championship would work out, Mr Jones, excluded France because Australia had not played them. "But I believe that Scotland will again finish at the top of the pack. I believe Ireland will be the surprise team, with Wales next and England at the bottom," he added.

**Alternative strategy**  
"In our test against Wales, they expected to be able to out-score us. As soon as the match started it was obvious that the reverse was true and Wales had an alternative strategy, which they have been pressing about their defeat since."

Though little more than half the tour party were on the flight home to Sydney and Melbourne from Heathrow early last night, those staying behind have few thoughts of rugby and none of Mr Jones. "I believe that the tour will be a success. I believe that the tour will be a success. I believe that the tour will be a success."

Instead the holidaying contingent "are all mentally and physically drained," said Jones—will be seeking Europe's resorts for the most part. David Campese is going to Italy and, though not immediately, Mark Ellis will be working in London.

The Barbarians, the antennae finely tuned to a succession of felicitous decisions, have invited Terry Holmes, to play against



Terry Holmes ... returns for the Barbarians.

## ELLA EYES GUEST SPOT

Though Mark Ella, 25, is insistent for the present that he has played his last match for Australia, he is not giving up altogether, writes John Mason.

Nor does Alan Jones, Australia's coach, accept that Ella has made up his mind finally about international rugby.

Ella, who is remaining in London until March on behalf of his tobacco-company employer, said yesterday: "I could play on an invitation basis over the next three months. I'm sure I'd love to. If a club asked me to turn out for them the following Saturday, I might do it."

Jones declared: "I'm confident Mark will carry on playing. At the end of a tour like this, all the players want to rest."

"In three months' time I bet only two members of the party will have retired—and Ella won't be one of them."

**TONIGHT'S RUGBY**  
RUGBY UNION—Gloucester v. Northampton (8.15 p.m., BBC 1)  
Rugby League—Widnes v. Leeds (8.15 p.m., BBC 1)

## Schools Rugby

By Our Schools Rugby Correspondent

Sevenoaks ... 0, Armadale, NSW ... 13pts

**ARMADALE**, from New South Wales, fielded their strongest team for the eighth and last match of their tour and gained their fifth victory, scoring three tries at Sevenoaks yesterday.

Heavy mud made conditions unsuitable for the running and passing game, which comes naturally to the Australians, but they adapted themselves well and threw in a number of brilliant moves.

Tombs and Chester, in the centre, were always prominent. It was soon clear that the high, hanging kick would be a most effective weapon of attack. Morse

and Chester were adept at these tactics for Armadale, and Slater was not slow to follow their example for Sevenoaks.

Hodgson, Schunker and Bourne had many awkward situations to deal with, and that the Australians did not score from the kicks tested strongly to the soundness of the Sevenoaks backs under such pressure.

**Sound defence**  
The home side came nearest to scoring in the first few minutes, when a penalty kick by Schunker bounced back off a post, and Armadale scrambled the ball clear.

After incisive running by Tombs and Chester, and a touch down by the Sevenoaks line, Tombs broke through again and Todd Perrott took his pass for a try under the posts.

## South East Rugby

# Sussex to press for leagues

By BILL DAY

THE Sussex County Union have thrown their full weight behind a drive to persuade the RFU to establish a properly constituted league system for clubs.

After a shift of opinion in the county, Sussex now want leagues implemented as soon as possible to replace the growing network of merit tables springing up all over the country.

Ted Wynter, Sussex's RFU representative, has been empowered to spare no effort in advocating the introduction of a new system at RFU meetings.

Peter Sealey, Sussex merit table organiser, said last night: "We don't want to mess around with merit tables any longer."

"We want a proper league system, with fixtures not based on historical associations, geographical considerations or the old boy network."

**Proper system**  
"A proper league system, in theory, would enable the lowest clubs in the country to push up playing standards if they did the impossible and kept on winning."

He paid tribute to the success of merit tables, which had paved the way for leagues and raised playing standards.

Mr Sealey's observation was illustrated by two shock results in Sunday's Sussex Cup quarter-final matches.

Eastbourne sprung the most impressive giant-killing feat for years by removing Crawley, a 14-0 scoreline, and little Chichester knocked out Horsham.

**Rising standards**  
The performances of Eastbourne and Chichester, both Sussex Merit Table Second Division clubs, in beating First Division opposition, demonstrates a paring of playing standards.

Indeed, the match between the two sides would clearly be stimulating.



Prince Serban Ghica ... Birmingham University seconds.



Viorel Moraru ... the only Rumanian to have scored a try at Twickenham.

**Motor Rallying**  
**COLEMAN STAYS ON TRAIL**  
Billy Coleman, the Irish driver who won the British championship 10 years ago, continues his comeback with the Rothmans rally team next year.

Accompanied by co-driver Renato Morgan, Coleman will drive a Porsche 911SC RS in the 1985 Rothmans Circuit of Ireland, Donegal and Cork 21 international as well as two or three European championship rallies and one world championship event.

**Rugby in Wales**  
**Some small relief for Abertillery**  
By DAVID GREEN

STRUGGLING Abertillery, who went out in the second round of the Schweppes Welsh Cup by 12-18 at home to Llanharan, gained some consolation last Wednesday by beating Cheltenham 20-16, only their second win against first-class opposition this season.

Llanharan's Cup success has brought problems for its close friends and rivals Abercromby, who were scheduled to receive them on Jan. 25, the day on which Llanharan play their third round tie at Neath.

Abercromby, famous cup fighters themselves, will thus lose a most desirable home fixture. They are hoping that an English club or a Welsh club will play in their stead to reach the last eight since Warrnambool 1974-5 has brought a gentle rebuke.

Mr Malcolm Jones, chairman of Abercromby, reminded me that his club reached the stage in 1976-7 when they gave Ebbw Vale a real fight, leading 43 at half time before losing 124-10 in a tight game.

**Leading points scorer**  
One does not envy Llanharan their cup tie at The Gnoll, Neath, but the club reached the stage at present and their Wales B backs, Paul Thorburn and Jonathan Davies, must be pressing hard for a try.

# How Rumania got in the scrum

By CHRIS THAU

FOR every Rumanian sportsman, irrespective of background or political persuasion, Jan. 5 must be a landmark in the history of Rumanian rugby.

It is the day when the unthinkable becomes fact, and Rumania take on England in a full rugby union international.

It will be a day that epitomises better than anything else the changing face of international rugby.

Rumania's progress, in a comparatively short time, is astonishing. It is one of the main aims of Rumanian rugby, and it is a fact that fathers was no more than to ensure the survival of the game.

The reasons for this miraculous survival, and impressive success of late, has always been a puzzle. Why Rumania?

**Unusual entry**  
In vivid contrast to the spread from Britain of rugby or soccer, the nations that have embraced either code rarely was not imported into Rumania by immigrants or workers.

Since 1914, when it had only three contenders, the Championship became the corner-stone on which Rumania built the present structure and developed the strength of the game.

Rumania's quest for international recognition began in earnest after the War, when the coaches of the newly installed communist regime added to the discipline of an otherwise brilliant and free-flowing style.

Those were the days when the formidable Soviet machine was born and in June 1950 Rumania "came in from the cold" when they beat France for the first time.

**Rubicon crossed**  
In their attempt to win recognition the Rumanians have found that a cautious approach and the elimination of unnecessary mistakes is the formula for not losing and which would open to them the big new temple of "big-time" rugby.

The "psychological Rubicon" of Rumanian rugby, the English Channel, was crossed in 1952 when the Rumanians, disguised as Bucharest selection, played for the first time at Twickenham against the English.

Thirty years later, young Octavian Moraru must hope to emulate the feat of his father, who scored a try for Rumania to have scored a try at Twickenham. There is no better place to underline the significance of the event.

Twickenham in its 75th anniversary season. Rumania has come a long way from the 6-15 annihilation by France in 1924.

Recent wins against Wales and Scotland, and now their first match against England at Twickenham, proved.

**Princely praises**  
There were also men like Prince Serban Ghica, now simply commander of the army, who praised the praises of rugby with the zeal that only a convert can command.

The ambiguity of the whole process is emphasised by the bizarre alliance between Serban Ghica—of Birmingham University—and a communist mayor of a small Moldavian town who fought side by side to put Buzau on Rumania's rugby map.

Initially we did not know much about the game, but we loved it instinctively," said Prince Ghica, one of the few British-trained Rumanian rugby players and president of the Rumanian Rugby Federation.

The first rugby game on Rumanian soil in September 1914 was a unique in one respect: all who took part in it were born and bred Rumanians, educated in French colleges and universities.

No British players were involved, although a fairly large contingent of expatriate doctors working in the oil industry, the largest in the world at the turn of the century. The British oil engineers had confined themselves to Association Football which they had introduced in 1905.

Similarities between Rumanian and French temperaments and spirit have influenced Rumania into adopting, not only the French playing style, but their Championship too.

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